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Thursday, September 12, 2013

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Hoarding removal starts up at centre

WORK to remove the hoardings around Stourbridge's new £50 million shopping development is now under way as the town's transformation takes a step closer to completion.

completion.
Once the barriers have been taken down around the site of the new Tesco supermarket and Crown Centre, landscaping will begin.
While the work takes place, a stretch of Stourbridge ring road will be closed for around a month.
The closure will run until

The closure will run until October 4 in the inner lane, from the bend on Bath Road, which is the lay-by near Crystal Leisure Centre to just past the Crown Lane entry onto Bath Road.

Meanwhile, the junction of Coventry Street / Crown Lane will be closed on Sep-tember 21 from 8pm to 7am while resurfacing work takes place.

takes place.

It is the final phase of the project which began in March last year.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for transportation, said:

"We are now on the final."

transportation, said:
"We are now on the final
phase of works to completing this multi million pound
redevelopment and I thank
everyone for their continued patience during this

Church joins heritage day

CHURCHES will come together as part of the Her-itage Buildings Open weekend and Festival of

weekend and restival of Churches.

On Saturday the doors of St Peter's Church, off Colley Lane and Blue Ball Lane, Cradley will be open from 11am to 4pm. Microfiche records of all burials in the churchyard will be available to research on the day.

There will also be an art exhibition by disabled foot and mouth painter Ian Parker, tours of the church tower, a barbecue, handbell workshop and fun children's games.

games.
The Reverend Katryn
Leclezio said: "St Peter's has
a rich local history."

EE STALLS OFFER **BOOST MARKET**

A MARKET is offering free stalls to try to boost business over the coming months. It is hoped the incentive, launched this week, will result in filling 25 empty spaces in Cradley Heath Market.

The scheme will run until December 31, at which point a number of other discounts will be offered, but those traders who take up the offers will be asked to sign up until next July.

Cradley Heath ward Councillor Anne Shackleton has said she hopes the idea will boost business on the

will boost business on the High Street market. She said: "We have tried hard in the past to get more customers to take market stalls, but it hasn't really down to just a few stalls now that are taken."

that are taken.
"So this is a major attempt at trying to attract

Online

Councillor Shackleton blamed a number of reasons for the decline in the number of stall holders.

She said: "People are shopping more online. We don't have the shops in the High Street to attract people, the supermarket was a major factor.

"But also there's quite a demise in markets generally.

demise in markets generally. So now we hope we can attract customers through this initiative."

Market manager Peter Cope said they have not

by Adam Grinsell

really advertised the scheme so far, other than within the market itself, but there have been people already asking. He added: "We are not going to increase the rents next year to try to grab back the money from this year, because that's counter-pro-ductive." ductive.

ductive."

The news comes after approval was given in the summer to move forward with plans to set up a new Sunday market or car boot sale in Oldbury.

Sandwell Council wants to hold the weekly event at the 650-space Council House car park, off Oldbury Ringway.

It is hoped it will be up and running within 12 months.

running within 12 months.

The popular market on Union Street in Wednesbury was also secured for three more years in July after a successful pilot led to a boom in trade for other shops.

Specialist bikes are stolen

FOUR specialist bicycles worth thousands of pounds were stolen from a home in the Black Country. Thieves broke into the garage of a house in Cedars Avenue, Kingswinford on August 31 and took the four pedal cycles.

The bikes stolen were a Litespeed Titanium bike; a Cannondale Slice Time Trial bike; a dark metallic grey Trek Grand Tourer; plus a silver brushed aluminium Claude Butler mountain bike. Anyone with information should contact Pc Caroline Morris on 101 or information can be given anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Crowds flock to mini-Glastonbury



Organiser Mark Moran with visitors to The Wassellstock Music Festival at the Old Halesonians RFC Ground

A RUGBY club was transformed into a 'mini Glastonbury' when a host of bands took to the stage to showcase

bands took to the stage to showcase their talents.

A stage was erected at the Old Halesonians RFC, along with gazebos, a bar and refreshments stalls for the second Wassellstock festival.

The Wassell Grove venue saw scores of people gather to enjoy the sites and sounds of seven bands perform into the evening.

evening.

The festival was organised by opti-

cian and musician Mark Moran who cian and musician Mark Moran who wanted to bring the community together to celebrate and enjoy live music. Mr Moran, from Halesowen said: "It is like a very mini-Glaston-bury and we want it to grow to be as big as one of the major festivals. It is all about bringing people together."

He added: "I wouldn't have been able to put this together without the help of local people and businesses who donated pallets, gazebos the truck for the stage. Everyone has been so gener-

ous and recognised what a fantastic ous and recognised what a fantastic event this is. "Amongst those perform-ing were Mr Moran's own band Okasis who are an Oasis tribute, an Elvis tribute Elvish, No Dr Feelgood, Got the T Shirt, Bravo Boys and Goats Don't

Nursing boost in wake of

AROUND 50 newly-qualified nurses are being

fied nurses are being taken on by Dudley's hospital trust to boost staffing levels in the wake of a critical report calling for improvements.

It is one of a series of measures outlined in an action plan drawn up by the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust following an investigation by NHS medical director Professor Sir Bruce Keogh.

The Government report highlighted concerns over

highlighted concerns over nignigated concerns over staffing levels, communica-tion, complaints handling and safety checking at Rus-sells Hall Hospital, and the trust has now responded. Chief executive of the trust Paula Clark announc-

ed the recruitment at a council of governors meeting held at the hospital last night. Around 50 newly qualified graduates will be taken on this month after training is completed.

training is completed.
A review has also taken
place to ensure nursing staff
levels are appropriate for the
demands of each shift – with
agency workers brought in
to supplement numbers if
needed. Members of the
committee board were also committee board were also told equipment and safety checks were carried out daily with an audit also taking place each month.

• Failing – Page 3

Vandalised dog moved

A MUCH-LOVED dog statue at Russells Hall hospital has been moved to within the grounds following vandalism earlier this year.

dalism earlier this year.

The dog sculpture had been outside the maternity entrance at Russells Hall after being moved from the Castle Hill roundabout. But Castle Hill roundabout. But following vandalism, bosses decided to take away the dog for repair and then place it near the hospital's main reception at Peace Gardens. Chief executive Paula Clark said: "He is in the courtyard next to the hospi-tal's main reception until

Shave.

Kate Weston, 39, had come along to the festival with friends.

The social worker from Brierley Hill said: "I think it is just fantastic.

"It's got a real feel good festival spirit. People have been loving the

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In the pink for sky-high fundraising



in borough

approaches

trainers and clubs have been nominated for November's ceremony that will take place at the Copthorne Hotel in Dudley. The window for applicants slams shut at 5pm tomorrow.

applicants slams shut at 5pm tomorrow.
Brierley Hill-based Black Country BeActive said it has had more nominations this year than at the same stage in 2012.

in 2012.

The awards aim to celebrate unsung athletes, trainers and sport clubs from around the area. Last year, Wolverhampton's

Olympic gymnastic sensa-tion Kristian Thomas was a double-award winner.

For those looking to nom-inate someone for this year's awards each category has a separate nomination form which can be found at the site wwwblackcountrybe active.co.uk

STAFF at Stourbridge's Wilko store took their fundraising efforts to new heights when they held a charity auction for the Midlands Air Ambu-lance.

Residents were invited to the event to outhid each other for a

event to outbid each other for a range of high flying prizes kindly donated by local businesses from across Stourbridge.

The 31 lots, including tickets to the West Midland Safari Park, jew-

ellery, wine tasting sessions, restaurant and beauty vouchers, combined with a mouth-watering cake sale to keep the bidders content, raised a total of £850 for the cause.

Team members also got into the spirit by dressing up in Grease themed costumes to complement the transfer of the same of t

store's 'Summer Lovin' promotion.

Sue Gazey, store manager at Wilko in Stourbridge, explained: "The auction was a great success

and I m very proud of the eirort the team members put in. We're really grateful to our loyal customers for coming down to join in the fun – they've always been a brilliant help with our fundraising events in the past and this time was no different."

sarah Arnold, corporate fundrais-ing manager at Midlands Air Ambu-lance Charity, said: "We are grateful to the Wilko store for organising this auction in support of our charity."

Relaunch of scheme to combat revellers

A PUB watch scheme aimed at combating booze-fuelled crime has been relaunched by police in Stourbridge town centre.

Licensees and managers of bars and pubs will be on the lookout for troublemakers and will be in regular contact with the police.

They will be able to warn each other about potential problems caused by rowdy revellers making their way around the nightspots in the town.

Licensing officer Pc Natalie Lees, who has relaunched the scheme, is encouraging door staff of licensed premises to connect to the police 'radio link''.

It will give them access to a radio system linking them to the borough's CCTV control room and town centre police teams. Eleven licensees from premises in the town are members of Stourbridge Pub Watch.

These include Chicago's, The Glasshouse, Edward Rutland, Stourbridge Academy, The Duke William, Chequers, The Swan, The Duke William, Chequers, The Swan, The Polle will help single out trouble makers and keep them from entering premises in the town centre.

Recruits for firm sought

A TRAINING business is holding a recruitment day for staff for its West Mid-

lands centres.

Juniper, which has its head office in Wolverhampton, is holding the event at Walsall's Banks's Stadium

Walsall's Banks's Stadium in Bescot Crescent on Friday from 10am to 5pm.

It is looking for training and progression officers to be based at its centres, one of which is in Brierley Hill. The company provides support and training for young people aged 16 to 18 through its XL programme.

Corridors hit by chute fire smoke

storey block of flats filled with smoke after arsonists set a rubbish chute alight.
Cradley Heath fire crews were called to Bredon Court, Halesowen at midnight on Saturday after alarms activated in the building.
Crews extinguished the blaze and used fans to clear the smoke.

Conman in sob stories fleeced elderly victims

A CONMAN preved on vulnerable elderly residents by dreaming up sob stories to convince them to hand over hundreds of pounds

on the doorstep, a court heard.

Darren Hemmings told residents that he needed money urgently to visit relatives including his 'pregnant wife' in hospital or pay for taxis. On one occasion Hemmings even stepped into a 79-year-old's house and 'intimidated' him into handing over £20.

Hemmings, aged 43, targeted elderly residents, aged between 79 and 94, living in Stourbridge and Halesowen

Stourbridge and Halesowen during the three-month spree this summer. The defendant, of Hurcott Road, Kidderminster, plea-

UNSUNG sporting heroes now have just until tomor-row to be nominated for this year's Black Country Sport & Physical Activity Awards. More than 100 athletes, trainers and clubs have been

Road, Kidderminster, pleaded guilty to six charges of fraud between June 14 and August 23 at Dudley Magistrates Court yesterday.

Magistrates remanded him in custody and warned he faces jail when he is sentenced at Wolverhampton Crown Court on October 3.

Repeated

Miss Maxine Macintosh, prosecuting yesterday, told the court: "These are repeated offences on numerous vulnerable elderly victims" victims."
The offences started on

The offences started on June 14 when he knocked on the door of a 94-year-old man in Oldswinford, Stourbridge, at 5.30pm. He claimed his lorry had broken down and he needed money to get a taxi – persuading the man to part with £65.

On August 16 he persuaded a man to hand over £150, again claiming his wife was ill in hospital. Finally, on August 23, Hemmings knocked on the door of a 79-

was ill in hospital. Finally, on August 23, Hemmings knocked on the door of a 79-year-old man.

Miss Macintosh said: "The victim had refused to give him any money. The defendant then stepped inside and intimidated the victim. The victim felt intimidated and gave him £20 in order to get him to leave."

Mr Gregory Burke, defending, said: "The facts are very much accepted."

site wwwblackcountrybe active.co.uk.

All nominees must either have been born, live in, or undertake their activity such as playing, coaching or volunteering in the Black Country. For further information, contact Jo Taylor on 01384 471139.

Chaos as vehicle sheds load



Steel sheets scattered across the road after falling off a lorry on the Castlegate island

Units 22/23 Sapcote

Trading Centre Powke Lane

A LORRY shed its load of metal sheeting causing traffic delays on a roundabout on a main route through the Black Country.

Sheets were scattered around the road at the Castlegate island at the junction of Tipton Road and Birmingham Road, in Dudley, on Friday lunchtime.

Dudiey, on rriday uncntime.

Traffic quickly backed up on surrounding roads including Duncan Edwards Way and Castle Hill as the road was blocked at around noon. Cars were unable to use one of the lanes around the island causing chaos as

vehicles had run over them in the aftermath of the incident.

Police arrived at the scene to direct traffic away from the outside line which feeds vehi-cles into the Castlegate retail and business park outside the Rentokil offices.

Queues around a quarter of a mile long formed down Tipton Road opposite the entrance to the Black Country Living Museum. Cars had to waved past the sheeting as the lorry was forced to pull up in one of the entrance roads to the business park.



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Swindler used sob stories to get cash

A CONMAN preyed on vulnerable elderly residents by dreaming up sob stories to convince them to hand over hundreds of pounds on the doorstep, a court heard.

Darren Hemmings told residents that he needed money urgently to visit relatives including his 'pregnant vife' in hospital or pay for taxis. On one occasion Hemmings even stepped into a 79-year-old's house and 'intimidated' him into handing over £20.

Hemmings, aged 43, targeted elderly residents, aged between 79 and 94, living in Stourbridge and Halesowen during the three-month spree this summer.

The defendant, of Hurcott Road, Kidderminster, pleaded guilty to six charges of fraud between June 14 and August 23 at Dudley Magistrates Court. Magistrates remanded him in custody and warned he faces jail when he is sentenced at Wolverhampton Crown Court on October 3.

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June 14 when he knocked on the door of a 94-year-old man in Oldswinford, Stourbridge, at 5.30pm. He claimed his lorry had broken down and he needed money to get a taxi – persuading the man to part with £65.

Mr Gregory Burke, defending, said: "The facts are very much accepted."

£1.5m boost for business

A KINGSWINFORD property group is investing £1.5 million in a new develop-

million in a new develop-ment on a Black Country industrial park.

London & Cambridge Properties, or LCP, is build-ing the 21,000 sq ft Progress Point warehouse and indus-trial development on its flag-ship Pensnett Estate site.

LCP owns and manages

LCP owns and manages 14 million square feet of industrial, retail and office space across the UK. The space across the Ch. The new speculative develop-ment aims to offer industrial units for businesses looking

units for businesses looking to move into the area. Progress Point will com-prise three blocks, with units ranging from 1,500 sq ft to 9,000 sq ft.

Contractors are currently on site, with the project due to be completed next spring.

£6m archive centre nears completion



The new nearly-completed archive centre situated in Tipton Road, Dudley

Hospital has been placed on a 'watch list' after failing to meet its accident and emergency waiting times for the second succes-

Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust only nar-rowly missed its target of treating 95 per cent of acci-dent and emergency patients within four hours.

Members of the trust's by Lee Watton

figure.

by Lee Watton

ery plan to Monitor. Mr Assinder said the trust had also posted a financial surplus of £132,000 for the first quarter of the year,

which was marginally ahead of the expected

And he added the majority of national and local access and waiting targets had been met or exceeded in

had been met or exceeded in Dudley. Trust chief executive Paula Clark said: "In common with trusts region-ally and nationally we are seeing more poorly patients with complex needs, reflec-tion of an increasing acquire

tive of an increasing ageing population and therefore an increased demand on

recruited five extra nurses to identify the needs of the

"An assessment team has

patients.

sive quarter.

council of governors were told 94.5 per cent of patients had been seen at Dudley's Russells Hall Hos-pital within the allotted

time between April and June this year.

June this year.

But while this will not invoke any penalty from regulator Monitor it is 'imperative' the trust meets the target in the second quarter of the year.

It follows the trust achieving a 92.6 per cent figure in the final quarter of the last financial year.

Higher

Emergency admissions at Russells Hall were two per cent higher than expected in the first quarter of this financial year. And figures are up three per cent on the same time last year.

Director of finance and

time last year
Director of finance and information on the trust Paul Assinder said: "We are now on a watch list and it is imperative we hit the target in the next quarter to avoid a penalty.
"At the present time we are on track to achieve that."

A NEW £6million archive centre, which will boast vast shelving for historical docu-ments, research rooms for visitors to trace their family tree and a welcoming foyer to host art exhibitions, is just weeks

from completion.

The finishing touches are being put to the construction work on building in Tipton Road, Dudley, before it is handed over to the council later this month.

Then work to regulate the touch

Then work to regulate the tem-perature and humidity inside the centre will begin before all of the thousands of photographs, books, maps and other records are trans-

rred to the new rooms. It is on track to open to the public

Hospital trust kept on A&E

targets failure watch list

in January next year when visitors will be able to walk into the large foyer where there will be temporary exhibition displays, seats and tables, vending machines and a shop area.
"People come from all over the place to use the archives and they can spend most of the day so we want to make sure it's comfortable," said Jen Beardsmore, Dudley Council's head of operations for

Council's head of operations for

libraries and archives. Near the foyer will be lockers for Near the toyer will be lockers tor belongings to be stored while people are looking at the records and a permanent exhibition area for bigger item's in the collection. There is a main search room

which will be set up with desks and chairs where archive documents will be brought out to people. There will be two smaller family history rooms where people can look at more sensitive records in

Outgrown

private.

All of the items in the council's collection, which has items dating back to 1182, will be stored in two

depositories.
Staff are 'boxing up' all of the items at the current site in Mount Pleasant, Coseley.
The council has outgrown the

existing premises and was also finding that they were no longer suitable for preserving historical

Hope for shut loos to reopen

loos to reopen
A PUBLIC toilet could be reopened only two years after it was closed under a council's spending review.
Dudley Council has agreed to investigate reopening the convenience in Castle Street in Roseville, Coseley following a community campaign. Residents who have been given access to the toilet claim it only requires a lick of paint and a new toilet seat.
Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for transportation, has warned the costs would be high – but agreed to meet campaigners. The toilet campaigners. The toilet was closed in the summer of 2011 as part of council-wide savings. Toilets in Halesowen Road in Netherton were also shut.
Clement Baugh, aged 71, of Dimmock Avenue, said: "We have been told by the council that it will cost £70,000. Where they have got that figure from I do not know."

Players kick off centre workouts

FOOTBALLERS have been getting to grips with new workout equipment at a leisure centre. Sandwell Ladies' Foot-ball Team are using Hales-owen Leisure Centre's

rew equipment as they train for the Birmingham County Women's league Division One. The centre has invested in the equip-ment to help people who

has invested in the equip-ment to help people who want a total body workout. Designed to develop total body strength using traditional bodyweight exercises and training accessories, the equip-ment includes suspension trainers, kettle bells, bat-tling ropes and dip bars.

Churchill mosaic talks are delayed

PLANNED talks aimed at securing the future of a well-known mosaic memo-rial to Winston Churchill have been delayed.

have been delayed.

It was the centrepiece of Dudley's Churchill Precient for over 20 years.

Last month MP lan Austin announced plans to hold talks with developers, but staff at his office said there were planning issues which still needed to be resolved.

Hall funds boost

A BAZAAR will be held at a village hall near Stour-bridge to raise funds for the venue. The event on September 28 at the prem-ises in Bridgnorth Road, Stourbridge, starts at 9.30am. For information call 01384 872073.

MP gets insight into life on the wards



Margot James MP, left, with Dr Alec Wolinski and lead nurse Sara Davis, during her visit to Russells Hall Hospital

our services.

"We ensure we prioritise all patients who need urgent medical attention."

Ms Clark said the group now has extra nurses on duty at peak times and have recruited five extra nurses. AN MP rolled up her sleeves to get a taste of life working on the wards at a

taste of life working on the wards at a Black Country hospital.
Margot James MP, who represents Stourbridge, donned a red volunteers' polo shirt to spend a day shadowing staff at Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley.
Her day kicked off with a shift shadowing assistant portering manager Paul McGarry in the emergency department followed by an afternoon with clinical support worker Barbara Mason on the Trust's acute medical ward.
"The only way you can understand people's jobs and how they deliver a

also been set up to look at the needs of patients being admitted to hospital and help move them to the most

service is by getting involved. It was service is by getting involved. It was very important for me to spend time with the staff who are providing vital services, to make sure my understanding of the challenges they face is as good as it can be," said Ms James.

On the acute medical ward, she was

On the acute medical ward, she was shown how the hospital measures care and displays information for patients. She also visited the hospital's endovascular theatre, which she opened in March 2012, where life saving aneurysm repair operations takes place. It's been a very rewarding and inspiring experience. I was very

impressed with the commitment among the staff I met and reassured by among the staffI met and reassured by the patients I talked to about their experience at Russells Hall Hospital," said Ms James. "I was fortunate enough to be taken around the hospital by Paul McGarry which has given me a real snapshot of the many types of patients you see in hospital.

"The whole experience has been a real eye opener into what it's like to work in a busy hospital, and it's been great to see how the medical professionals and different departments work together," she added.



that



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OF PETER

THE worst result of all, of course, would be for the UK Parliament now to hold a second vote and decide to attack Syria, and for the United States Congress then to vote against an attack. What a lonely little RAF air raid

IN THE meantime, you have to admire Syria's public relations operation. In previous wars the Syrians have come across as the Middle East equivalent of the Orcs in Lord of the Rings, as vicious, grunting thugs. Today, they have spokesmen with perfect English explaining President Assad's case with sweet reason. They also had the nous to allow the BBC's Jeremy Bowen into Damascus. He has introduced us to a succession of adverted attractive introduced us to a succession of educated, attractive and Westernised people, like the ladies in the hair salon living in terror of the rebels breaking into their city. What will happen to people like this if Obama destroys Assad's ring of steel and Damascus falls to an assortment of guerrilla groups, blazing with reli-gious fury and with many scores to settle? I do not give much for the chances of the ladies in the salon.

AND I wonder how convincing is the "proof" of Syria's guilt over gassing its own people which President Obama is showing to senators in the hope of winning their support. Is it as persuasive as the evidence pro duced before the US/UK invasion of Iraq 10 years ago, showing missiles, chemical-warfare plants and mobile laboratories? After the invasion the missiles turned out to be drainpipes, the chemical-warfare plants were baby-food factories and the mobile laboratories were the Iraqi equivalent of Pickfords removal trucks.

teenagers who fail to get a grade C in English or Maths GCSE will be forced to continue studying and resit their exams. The chief effect of this diktat will be to make lots of children unhappy. I speak as one who failed Maths O-level three times.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Raiders stripped home Dealer told to pay £250 of pipes and radiators

THREE men stripped an empty home of copper piping, causing hundreds of pounds worth of damage, before

of pounds worth of damage, before being caught by police as they fled the scene, a court heard.

The house in Dudley had only been vacated by the previous tenant for a few hours when David Hughes Senior, his son David Hughes Junior and Dion Bricknall broke in through a gate and let themselves in Dudley magistrates were told

in, Dudley magistrates were told.
Police responding to a 999 call turned up at the house in Celandine Road, on the Wrens Nest

Police responding to a 999 call turned up at the house in Celandine Road, on the Wrens Nest estate, to find the men running out soaking wet and covered in filth at about 10.15pm on April 2. Inside, officers found copper piping and radiators had been ripped from the walls of the house. The three men denied responsibility for the incident, claiming they had gone to the house to collect a debt and found it in that state.

But they were convicted of burglary with intent to steal following a trial at Dudley Magistrates' Court last month. Last Thursday, Hughes Senior, aged 51, and Hughes Junior, 22, both of Ivy Road, Dudley, and Brickanll, 21, of Marigold Crescent, appeared again at the court to be sentenced by District Judge Graham Wilkinson.

Mr Wilkinson said the figure for damage was in excess of £600. Mr Michael Davies, defending the three men, said Bricknall had 'set to change his life' since the incident and now had a job and is a father. He said Hughes Jnr was of a previous good character but admitted Hughes Snr had a 'poor' criminal record. Mr Wilkinson gave Hughes Jnr and Bricknall 16-weeks custody suspended for 12 months. The pair were also ordered to carry out 100 hours unpaid work.

Hughes Snr received a 24-week prison sentence, which was suspended for two years.

They were each ordered to pay £250 compensation, £200 costs and £80 victim surcharge.

Church opens doors to past



Church members and history enthusiasts Sheila Oliver, Margaret Woodhall and Martin Jones

HISTORY buffs can learn more about the fami

HISTORY buffs can learn more about the families commemorated by sculptures, windows and wall plaques at a church during an open day.

All Saints' Church, in Sedgley, will be hosting the day tomorrow between 10.30am and 3.30pm.

Visitors will be able to learn more about Sedgley and its inhabitants over the years through a series of displays at the venue.

Among those commemorated is Eliza Tinsley,

who defied the conventions of the Victorian era by taking over the running of her husband's nail-making factory following his death. Under her management the Cradley Heath business, which she renamed after herself, thrived and she became very wealthy. She had a grand house called The Limes built on the outskirts of Sedgley. It has been converted into eight flats

A SCRAP metal dealer who made no record of a car he crushed has been ordered to pay £250. Joseph Thompson was working at Fletcher Metals when the yard was visited by police on May 21.

The 54-year-old, of Hendon Close, Lower Gornal, Dudley, was asked to show officers the books but was unable to account for a Ford Fiesta that had been crushed.

His solicitors claimed he accepted no payment for the car, according to letters sent to Wolverhampton Magistrates Court, where he was sentenced in absence.

District Judge Michael Wheeler was told Thompson was unaware of what bokeping he had to do.

Thompson pleaded guilty to being a scrap metal dealer failing to record the particulars of metal received via post. He was ordered to pay a £145 fine, a £20 victim surcharge and £85 costs.

Firm splits up into two sites

A BUSINESS has split into two parts and taken on a new site. Deligo Fastpak, in Lye, Dudley, is now Deligo and Fastpak with electrical components suppliers Deligo, and will move to a 20,500 sq ft unit on the Blackbrook Valley industrial estate, off Narrowboat Way. Fastpak, which makes a range of red-topped plastic packs for its customers, remains at the Monarch Works in Hill Street, Lye.

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Arteries problem brought on death

A WOMAN died from com-

A WOMAN died from complications caused by diabetes and a narrowing of her arteries, an inquest heard.

Louise Weaver was discovered by her daughter Keileigh at the home they shared in Southalls Lane, Dudley, on the morning of October 6 last year.

Dudley Corpores Court

October 6 last year.
Dudley Coroners Court
was told Keileigh had immediately called for an ambulance and had tried
desperately to revive her
mother but to no avail.
The 45-year-old had been
staying with her daughter
for a short time after undergoing hospital treatment.
The inquest was told she suffered from medical problems
including diabetes, Crohn's

fered from medical problems including diabetes, Crohn's Disease, Addis, epilepsy and in the past had been diag-nosed with breast cancer. Assistant deputy coroner Mr Angus Smillie read out a statement from Keileigh Weaver which said her mother had been ill on the day before her death when day before her death when she was found lying on the floor next to the bed.

floor next to the bed.
Pathologist Nicholas
Hunt told the court there
had been no indication of
alcohol or non-prescribed
medication. But he did discover a metabolic abnormality, where the body suffers a
shortage of insulin and
switches to burning up fatty
acids instead acids instead.

Mr Smillie gave a conclusion of natural causes at the

Car park plagued by gangs of yobs will close at nights

social behaviour for more than a decade will be closed on evenings and weekends in a bid

to clamp down on the problem.

The 40-space car park at Tenscore Park in Sedgley was introduced after Ladies Walk Surgery was built

by Alex Ross football club had signed to use the pitches this season.

He said: "It's sad we have
to come to this - but we have
no other option and it is the

nearby residents I care about. It is a trial closure and we will review it in a few

Sergeant Richard Cruick-shank said: "My team will continue to provide a high visibility police presence at

the location in order to

tackle any anti-social behaviour that occurs."

was introduced arter Ladies Wait SUN on the park's former car park in 2000. The car park, however, has become a haven for night-time activity for young people who disturb nearby residents, according the Sold and support to Sedgley councillor David Caunt.

Caunt.

At a meeting at the surgery last week, community leaders agreed to the close of the car park on weekends and from 6.30pm on week nights.

Councillor Caunt said:
"We have tried everything, but still the problems go on.

Surgery

Surgery

"People go on the car park late at night, rev their car engines, make loud noise, take drugs – everything you can think of. It's just not fair on residents nearby."

The surgery, which has had to install roller shutters at its entrance in recent months, will take responsibilty for closing and opening the barrier to the car park. Fears were raised at a community forum by residents that the closure would

dents that the closure would impact sports clubs which use the playing field – but Councillor Caunt said no

Sweet success for lollipop team



From left, Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for transport, school crossing patrol Delia Mills, The Mayor of Dudley Councillor Alan Finch, school crossing patrol Irene Maslin and The Mayoress of Dudley Heather Finch

LOLLIPOP men and women from across Dudley borough have attended a special event to mark 60 years of UK school crossing patrols.

The event, which was held at Dudley Town Hall, celebrated the hard work of Dudley County of Count

Dudley Council's school crossing patrols and the work they do to help

school crossing patrol team with a com-memorative certificate and badge.

keep children and young people safe when they are walking to school.

The Mayor of Dudley Councillor Alan Finch and Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for transport, presented the 97 members of the

Councillor Finch said: "Our school crossing patrols do a fantastic job."

in brief

Emily is on song for finals at NEC

A TALENTED youngster has been given the thumbs up by judges at the Open Mic UK auditions.

Emily Badger, who attends St Michael's CofE High School in Rowley Regis, has made it through Regis, has made it through to the regional finals to be held at the NEC on October 5.

The 13-year-old, who lives in Tividale, is in the

lives in Tividale, is in the running to compete for a place in the Grand Final at The O2 Arena in Londo.

Emily has been singing since the age of two.

She was invited by West Bromwich Albion Football Club last year to perform their club anthem The Lord is My Shepherd on the pitch in front of 32,000 supporters. supporters

Luke who's open at Merry Hill site

TRENDY Midland fashion designer Luke Roper, whose customers include sports and entertainment stars, has opened a new store in Merry Hill shopping centre.

Trading has begun at the latest Luke branch where seven jobs have been created.

Mr Roper, who is cur-rently visiting China, said he was very excited with the latest addition to the retail business.

"Luke's roots are firmly set in the West Midlands and being a Walsall lad, the opening of the Merry Hill store is a very proud moment for me.

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IEWS FEATURE



DID you ever suspect that the Australians are all raving mad? It had crossed my mind a while ago, but back then my suspi-cions were based on ill-founded cions were based on ill-founded prejudices, such as their love of Foster's lager and the fact they consider Home And Away to be quality family viewing.

But the proof came this weekend when, for the second time in three years they have elected another British politician as their rigne minister.

as their prime minister.

A while back it was that

A while back it was that strange Welsh bird, the one from Barry Island, but everyone can make a mistake. Perhaps they had been getting Gavin and Stacey on the satellite, and got the two mixed up. Easy mistake to make

But now they have gone and done it again, this time it is an exboxer from London called Tony Abbott.

While we might hate the sight of our politicians, it seems our antipodean cousins can't get

antipodean cousins can't get enough of them.
Why, is hard to imagine, but we really shouldn't look a gift horse in the mouth. If they want our politicians, we should supply them. All of them.

At the moment there are 650 of

At the moment there are oso of the blighters who were due to break up from the Commons again this week, so they can all take part in their annual jamborees in various parts of the country. Let's buy the tickets now, and get them all on those

After all last time we exported a ship load of dubious characters to the other side of the world, it didn't turn out so bad, did it?

TALKING of politicians, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has told us he has saved the nation's finances, that the economy is 'turning the corner', and that he has achieved a 'decisive victory in policy." in policy'.

Sounds remarkably like that fellow how said he had ended the 'cycle of boom and bust'. Now what happened to him?

ACCORDING to reports, a new piranha-like fish could be heading for the UK after being discovered in the River Seine in France.

The Paco, charmingly known at the pace, the pace the pace of the pace the pace of the pace.

The Paco, charmingly known as the nut cracker or the ball cutter, grows up to 3ft and while technically a vegetarian, it has a curious fondness for chomping on gentlemen's meatballs.

"They bite because they're hungry, and testicles sit nicely in their mouth," explains expert Henrik Carl.

Still if it livens up those end-ofterm skinny dipping sessions in Oxford every summer, it must have something going for it.





The van during its overhaul and respray



How the ice cream van looked before



Alfonso serving up ice cream inside the revamped vehicle

The ice cream man cometh in 1973 van

of selling ice cream has gone back to its origins with the refurbishment of a classic 1973 van. **DEBORAH HARDIMAN** reports

FROM humble beginnings on a pushbike, to their first factory in Dudley, the Urso family's passion for ice cream has coursed through their veins for

coursed through their veins for generation after generation.
Ever since Alfonso Urso climbed out of the coal pit and hopped on his bicycle clutching his shiny new ice cream seller's permit, the Ursos have never looked back. Now third generation Black Country vendor Alfonso Urso has spent six months and around \$5,000 restoring an eye-catching classic van

ing classic van. He has returned the 1973 Bedford CF to its former glory after snapping it up on eBay for a cool £3,500.

Emigrated

The 41-year-old former Pool Hayes School pupil has been turning heads round Willenhall with the pink and white

round Willenhall with the pink and white motor.

He is the third generation from his family to run the business known as Alfonso & Sons. It was set up in 1956 by Mr Urso's grandfather, also called Alfonso, who had emigrated here from Sicily.

The van, which plays the Greensleeves tune, will next month take pride of place on display at a national ice cream business conference in Crewe.

Mr Urso said: "My dad Carmelo wanted to do up an old ice cream van, but unfortunately he died in 1999 before he could do it. He wanted to do up a van in the way

it. He wanted to do up a van in the way they were designed back in the early days.



Alfonso Urso, with the ice cream van he has restored with son Carmelo

Altonso Urso, with the ice cream various the would have been very proud with the would have been very proud with the result, 100 per cent. The public reaction has been great.

"I get pensioners coming to me and telling me their ice cream stories from when they were children. They also take photos of it because it reminds them of the past.

"Selling ice cream has always been our family trade. When my grandad Alfonso arrived in this country he worked in the coal mines before getting a permit to sell ice cream on his bicycle and it has remained in the family ever

since with my son Carmelo, the fourth generation," Mr Urso explained. He restored the vehicle with help from his 17-year-old son Carmelo, who is often at the wheel of another of their

vans.

The pair, of Lincoln Avenue, County Bridge, stripped the interior and installed new machines, before repainting the outside to the familiar Mr Whippy colours – pink, cream and white – and fitting chrome bumpers and hubcaps.

Mr Urso, who is married to Nicky, a teacher, hopes Carmelo and his other children, Lorenzo, aged 10, and daugh-

over the family trade.

He said: "I always knew I would go into the business ever since I was little. It's in

my blood.
"I do feel selling ice creams is a bit of a "I do feel selling ice creams is a bit of a dying trade and I've got concerns about competition from the big supermarkets which are selling cheap ice lollies in boxes, but we're still here working hard and playing Greensleeves. I hope my som will be able to carry on if they are able to." He still has strong links with his extended family back in Ribera on the Sicilian south coast and visits them at least once a veer

least once a year.

"We're always going there, sometimes twice a year. We have a house there and all my dad's relatives. We are very close.

Potential

"My grandad worked down the pit in Hanley, in Stoke, which a lot of immi-grants did when they arrived in the 1950s. When he got his residency papers to stay in England he started the busi-ness on an old fashioned push bike. It was

ness on an old fashioned push bike. It was like a 'stop me and buy one' set up.

"It was then that he saw the potential in selling ice cream as a job and eventually bought his first ice cream van."

In 1969 the enterprising Alfonso senior then bought an ice cream factory in Dudley Road East, Dudley, which he sold in 1980 and which is still in operation.

tion.

He explained that his uncles Vincenzo and Giuseppe and his aunt Josephine all run ice cream businesses in London along with their children.

along with their children.

Mr Urso added: "My grandad went
back to live in Sicily and bought three
farms, growing olives, oranges and
grapes. My uncle Vincenzo went back
with him, but eventually returned here because he missed selling ice creams in the UK so much."

THROUGH THE YEARS

OFFICE workers rushed to their OFFICE workers rushed to their windows as an Argentine Pucara ground attack aircraft zoomed in on RAF Cosford. The plane, which was captured by British forces at Port Stanley during the Falklands conflict, was on its way to take its place at the station's aerospace museum.

A SMOKING strongman from Wolverhampton failed to prove he Wolverhampton failed to prove he was fit on fags after his last-gasp bid to race against a doctor was stubbed out. Dr John Wigmore had vowed to race a smoker as part of an anti-cigarette campaign, but refused the challenge of 47-year-old Ray Britton on the grounds that he was too young.

A 61-YEAR-OLD Bilston man enjoyed 40 years of accident-free motoring – and then had two crashes in three minutes. The driver collided with a car on Finchfield Road West before reversing into a car.

1993...

A TRAIN from London to Wolverhampton was turned into the curry express. Around 80 people were treated to free portions of chicken tikka masala and vegetable curry as part of a link between British Rail and an Indian restaurant.

A TREASURE hunter from Worcestershire was in line to bag a fortune after unearthing a hoard of ancient coins. The lucky finder uncovered 977 silver and seven gold coins, which was believed to be the biggest ever Iron Age haul found in Britain.

A SURVEY revealed that a A SURVEY revealed that a quarter of all men in the Midlands were "domestic disasters" with household chores. The ASDA-commissioned report found working women spent double the time amount of time on domestic chores as the men.

2003...

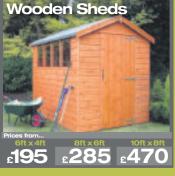
BILSTON became the first town in the country to offer crèche facilities at a marketplace, allowing parents to enjoy child-free shopping. The facility formed part of an 2800,000 regeneration scheme which included a glazed canopy and a market office.

HUNDREDS of people gath-HUNDREDS of people gathered in a playing field to witness the demolition of three landmark tower blocks in West Bromwich. St John's House, Caldwell House and Wills House disappeared from the skyline during the operation which took five months to plan and five seconds to enact.

THOUSANDS of pounds were raised for charity as Wolver-hampton City Marathon attracted a record-breaking 1,800 participants. Serious runners competed charging them in from where the alongside those in fancy dress to raise more than £10,000 for charity.

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Try not to hit back at lane hogs

ne is mistaken in his assertion that passing another vehicle on its left side is illegal.

The Highway Code is essentially what its title indicates – a code of conduct for drivers and other road users. Its introduction makes it clear that breach of other rules 'will not, in itself, cause a person to be prosecuted', though evidence of conduct amounting to a breach may be used to establish liability under the road traffic legislation for a specific offence.

HS2 will never stay on budget

I WRITE in response to Mr Jerry Blackett's letter extolling the virtues of the HS2 rail link. While there is much in his

while there is much in his euphoric and glowing expectations that I have to say that I agree with; I cannot for the life of me see the remotest possibility of this enormous project being concluded either within budget or on time

cluded either within budget or on time. We must remember that the original budget was a paltry £50 billion and it has already shot up by £30bn to a staggering £80hn, so I would hazard a guess that the chances of it coming in on or below budget are to say the least remote.

B PARSONS.

B PARSONS, Millard Road, Coseley.

Wait to win

REGARDING not winning on ERNIE. In 1956 I was bought two as a present. I am still waiting for a win. J CARTER, Brierley Hill.

WHILE sharing Steve Vanstone's views about motorway 'lane hoggers' (Action over lane hogs, August 22), I fear that he is mistaken in his assertion that passing another vehicle on its left side illegal.

The Highway Code is essentially what its title indicates – a code of conduct for drivers and other road users. Its introduction makes it clear that breach of other rules 'will not, in itself, cause a person to be prosecuted.' Section 2, namely 'driving without reather and to your correspondent in view of the confession in his final paragraph about the nature of his driving behaviour in the nature of his driving behaviour in the nature of his driving heading his on full beam behind or towards another vehicle. He would do well to resist the temptowards and the rowards another vehicle. He would do well to resist the temptowards another vehicle. He would have a within the vision of some vigilant traffic transport of the read of other rules 'will not, in itself, cause a person to be prosecuted.' Section 2, namely 'driving without readounce towards another vehicle. He would do well to resist the temptowards another vehicle. He would have a conference of the with eadlights on full beam behind or towards another vehicle. He would have a conference includes driving with headlights on full beam behind or towards another vehicle. He would have a conference with the nature of his driving in fine weather and brown that the headlights on full beam behind or towards another vehicle. He would have a conference with the nature of his driving in fine weather and towards another vehicle. He would have a conference with the adlights on full beam behind or towards another vehicle. He would have a conference with the adlights on full beam behind or towards another vehicle. He would have a conference with the adlights on full beam behind or towards another vehicle. He would have a conference with the adlights on full beam behind or towards another vehicle.

He would add a friendly note of feature in the with mote of the with headlight

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Care and kindness

shown at hospital

IN THE early hours of Saturday, June 8, I was unexpectedly IN 11h early nours of saturday, June 8, I was unexpectedly admitted to Russells Hall Hospital. From the time of my arrival I was treated with the utmost care and kindness, having a scan later that day and an operation on Sunday by an extremely skilful surgeon and his dedicated team.

I have so much admiration for all staff concerned,

I have so much admiration for all staff concerned, doctors, nurses, care workers, cleaners, all who work tirelessly from 7.30am to 7.30pm, on three-day stretches, always willing to help or advise and always with a smile. Physiotherapists, occupational therapists, social services who make sure there will be support at home when discharged, so many people to thank.

My husband is registered blind and the same care and kindness was extended to him. On his daily visits he was also able to have a cooked meal in the restaurant.

I am 81 years of age and I could not have been treated better if I had been in a private hospital.

After all the adverse publicity concerning so many hospitals I felt I must express my personal experience of the excellent care I received in the following wards – Critical Care, C8, B4 and B5, for which I will be eternally grateful.

Care, C8, B4 and B5, for which I will be eternally grateful.

JUNE HILL, Dudley.

E-MAIL

Dudlev.chrons@

LETTERS to the Editor

Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street.

Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

using the road.

It is well-established that the kind of conduct which this provision is GEOFF DAVIES, Lower Gornal

The magic of Maciver

YES, the audience were initially disappointed that Marti Pellow did not show up for last Wednesday's performance of Evita at the Grand Theatre, especially as the show had only been running for two nights.

However Stuart Maciver (the understudy) more than

gusting mess in the street

Cash first

IF SO many students are

were made to pay up-front?
PETER COLE, Kingswinford.

YES, the audience were ini-

(the understudy) more than

(the understudy) more than made up for it in what was an amazing performance and one of which he should be extremely proud.

Two things did disappoint though – the staggering cost of the car park in Piper's Row (now£3.50) and the dismissing mess in the street.

JAN TALBOT.

for studies

owing money to Dudley colleges for their education. wouldn't it be better if they



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Mother of lorry victim in tribute to her son

THE grieving mother of a 26-year-old who died when he was struck by a lorry in the Black Country has paid tribute to him, saying he will be 'missed forever and a day'.

tragedy.

Mr Aziz's mother was too upset to speak about her son's death but has issued a statement through West Midlands Police.

She thanked well-wishers for the support they had given her since his death.

"I would like to thank everybody for their beautiful flowers, cards, thoughts and prayers at this tragic time.
"Sartaj was 26 years old. He was highly thought of and well respected, by not only his friends and family, but the larger community in the Lye area. I was very proud of my son and he will be missed forever and a day," her statement said.

Floral tributes have been placed on a lamp post outside the Formula 1 Hand

he will be 'missed forever and a day'.

Sartaj Aziz, from Brierley Hill, was knocked down in Thorns Road, Quarry Bank, on August 20.

Garret Fitzpatrick, 27, from Brierley Hill has been charged with manslaughter in connection with the tragedy.

Mr Aziz's mother was too up a Facebook page in his upset to speak about her Car Wash in Thorns Road where Mr Aziz was knocked down. Friends have also set up a Facebook page in his honour and are asking for donations to cover the costs of his funeral.

Detectives refreshed their appeal for witnesses to the crash which happened at around 3.30pm to get in touch to help with the investigation.

tigation.

After the crash, the dual

After the crash, the dual carriageway, near the Merry Hill shopping centre, was closed in both directions while police carried out their investigations and the force helicopter circled the scene. The route was closed for around seven hours. Fitzpatrick, of Bank Street, appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court on August 29. He will next appear at a hearing on November 7.

Singing siblings in regional finals



Daisy Harris, front, with her big sister Sophie, back, and Katie seen with her elder brother Thomas Withers

Katie seen with her elder brother Thomas Withers
IT'S A real sister – and brother – act, with two sets of
starstruck young Black Country wannabes reaching the
regional finals of a national singing competition.
Between them, sisters Sophie and Daisy Harris and their
friends Tom and Katie Withers will make up no less than
three of the 20 acts aged 16 and under in the West Midlands
final of the Open Mic competition at Birmingham's NEC in
October. Sophie, aged 14, of Pensnett, won through as a
soloist, singing her own song 'Monroe' – about Marilyn, and
as a duet with 12-year-old Tom, from Kingswinford, with
their rendition of Passenger's 'Let Her Go'.

Tom's eight-year-old sister Katie and Sophie's little sister
Daisy, aged seven, also clinched a place in the final with
their duet cover of Rihanna's 'Diamonds'.

All four are now rehearsing new numbers ready for the

All four are now rehearsing new numbers ready for the final at the NEC on October 5.

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'Together We Achieve Excellence'

Bungling robber with gun is given two years

Ukulele stars step it up



Black Country Ukulele Players with mayor Councillor Allan Finch

Country Ukulele Players BCUP will be performing on the steps of Dudley Council House to welcome visitors to the Heritage Open Day event on September 14.

Dudley Council has organised a fun-filled day for the family at the council house. The Council House on Priory Road, Dudley, will be

A UKULELE band will help people open from 11am to 3pm. There will get in tune with their heritage at a be guided tours of the council family event this month. The Black chamber, including a talk on how the council works and the insignia at 11.30am, 12.30pm, 1.30pm and 2.30pm when people can also see the mayoral badge, chain and mace. There will also be photographs of

Dudley town centre over the years on display and visitors can also join the Deputy Mayor and consort for tea in the Mayor's Parlour.

been jailed for two years - after being caught out by a tell-tale

being caught out by a tell-tale necklace featuring two bullets.

The distinctive piece of jewellery meant Daniel Bray was instantly recognised despite wearing yellow sunglasses and hiding the lower part of his face, a court was told.

He had left his watch at the Londis store in Powke Lane, Rowley Regis, as security after being allowed to leave with alcohol that had not been paid for earlier in the day, revealed prosecutor Mr Paul Reid.

The 22-year-old was wearing dark glasses and had half of his face was covered when he returned and pulled a gun on manager Mr Saranjit Randhawa, who immediately knew who it was because of the necklace, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Mr Reid explained: "The defendant said 'give me dough' to which Mr Randhawa answered 'give me the money you owe me from earlier'."

Lunged

Lunged

Bray pointed the gun at the shop manager and lunged at him before walking out empty-handed, concluded the prosecutor.

The defendant was arrested the following day after walking back in to the store at the same time as a uniformed police officer was taking a statement from Mr Randhawa about the attempted robbery.

Bray broke down in tears and claimed that he had been threatened by a drug dealer over an unpaid debt, the court heard. The air pistol used in the bungled raid was found during a search of his home.

Mr Randhawa later told police: "I was not really scared or frightened."

Mr Jasvir Mann, defending, said: "This was a fairly inept attempt to rob the shop. "This young man was under what he considered to be intolerable pressure over the debt and had been drinking heavily."

Unemployed Bray, from Dunhill Walk, Rowley Regis, admitted the May 14 attempted robbery and possession of an imitation firearm on the same date.

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Holcroft's Portfield Iron and Galvanising Works in Dudley Port, Tipton – which was situated not too far from the Woodside Iron Works in Dudley



Richardson glass cone furnace at Wordsley. hanks to Broadfield House Glass Museum

Glass and iron expertise at heart of huge Crystal Palace

WITH the recent press reports that a Chinese billionaire is considering building a replica of the Crystal Palace, which hosted the Great Exhibition of 1851, it is important to highlight the importance of Black Country ingenuity, skill and organisation to the creation of the original structure.

The Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of All Nations in 1851 was a triumph of engineering and manufacturing. A proclamation to the world of the dominance of British industry, it was housed in an amazing structure the like of which had never before been seen. Made of glass and item, it was a sound to be a seen of the seen iron, it struck awe into each and every person who beheld it.

who beheld it.

Sited in Hyde Park, it was six times the size of St Paul's Cathedral and its dimensions were staggering. It was 1,851ft long, the equivalent of 118 large eight-roomed houses, and at 456ft was as broad as 28 such houses. The transept, the arched part that crossed the building, was 68ft high, while the nave—the long part—was just 3ft less in height. In all, this amazing Crystal Palace covered almost 18 acres, about six times that of Saint Paul's Cathedral.

Not only was it an immense size it was

Not only was it an immense size, it was ground-breaking in its style and materials. Normally, buildings were made of wood, stone or brick, but the Crystal Palace owed nothing to such traditional materials.

nothing to such traditional materials. Its marvel was founded upon glass and iron. A handful of railway stations and large conservatories had been made in the same way, but none compared even remotely to the Crystal Palace in their scale. Six million people, a third of the British people, were



The Crystal Palace, made possible by Black Country ingenuity, skill and organisation

pulled to London to admire both the country's manufacturing accomplishments and the magnificent Crystal Palace itself. They could not have done so without the Black Country. The building contractors were the cele-

magnificent Crystal Palace itself. They could not have done so without the Black Country. The building contractors were the celebrated engineers Fox and Henderson of the London Works, Smethwick; the 900,000ft glass that transformed the building into a place of wonderment was made at Chance's of Spon Lane, Smethwick; and the 4,000 tons of iron that held up everything came from the Woodside Iron Works in Dudley.

Chance's had to develop a new technique to develop larger panes than had been possible previously. At 896,000 sq ft, the total surface of the glass made at Chance's was astonishing and it weighed 400 tons. Each pane of glass was large and thick – almost four and a half feet long and 10in broad – and was joined to thin strips of wood called sash bars.

Many pundits publicly expressed doubts about the stability of the Crystal Palace. All

were to be confounded by the expertise of Fox, Henderson and their workers and by the strength of the cast iron from the Woodside Iron Works in Dudley. These had been built in 1841 by Bramah and Cochrane.

Prepared

John Joseph Bramah was a remarkable civil engineer who also took over Dudley's Horseley Iron Works in 1844. One of his most important successes was the roof over the Houses of Parliament, which made good use of northing the success of th

of cast iron.

In 1844 John Weale noted that Bramah's work deserved commendation for the workmanlike and correct manner in which it was executed. He explained that the iron for the riverfront portion of the building was prepared at Woodside while the roof over the House of Peers and the rest of Parliament came from the Horseley Iron Works. Alexander Cochrane was as accomplished as Bram-

ah. After tendering for the work at the Great Exhibition it is said that Joseph Paxton, the architect, tersely stated: "You have the contract, start immediately". His word was enough. No written confirmation was needed. Work did begin straight away, so that within nine months the staggering number of 3,300 cast-iron girders were ready. In addition 358 wrought-iron trusses were cast, along with 30 miles of guttering and 202 miles of sash bars. No wonder that a Dudley commentator exclaimed proudly that the result of sash bars. No wonder that a Dudley commentator exclaimed proudly that the result was a marvel of engineering skill and accomplishment, and clearly demonstrated to the world the power and ingenuity which the Woodside Works possessed to make and erect anything in the substance and form of iron'. Fox was knighted for his invaluable contribution to the Great Exhibition and later, he and Henderson were the contractors for the removal of the Crystal Palace from Hyde Park to Sydenham in South London. Unfortunately, their business became too stretched and failed in 1856 when one of its foreign

to Sydenham in South London. Unfortunately, their business became too stretched and failed in 1856 when one of its foreign creditors could not pay its debts. Up to 2,000 people lost their jobs.

The craft of another West Midlands glass maker also captured the imaginations of commentators - that of Richardson's of Wordsley, Stourbridge.

In the Catalogue to The Industry of all Nations it was stressed that the company was chiefly famous for crystal glass "which they have carried to the utmost extent of brilliancy and purity. An examination of their contributions in decanters, wine-glasses, goblets, cream-bowls, butter-coolers etc. will at once carry conviction that in this branch of the art England excels every other country of the world. Bohemia asserts, and probably maintains, its supremacy in the manufacture of coloured glass, but it cannot enter into competition with us as regards that which is colour-less".

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Shoplifter in Valentines Day theft of nurse costume at Ann Summers store

outfit from Ann Summers on Valentines Day has been spared an immediate jail term - after her letter pleading for lenience was described by a District Judge as 'not the usual flannel'.

Gemma Ann Smith was originally given a deferred sentence when she appeared before magistrates for steal-ing the £25 novelty outfit. She had also been subject to a conditional discharge at the time for stealing air fresh-

eners worth £70 from Halfords on Septem-

ber 14 last year.
She however went onto steal more clothing and shoes worth £108 from Peacocks, Merry Hill shopping centre, on July 23 this

year.

Mrs Clare Davis, prosecuting, said Smith
removed the tags from the clothing and
slipped it under her jacket. She was not

detained at the time but was arrested later.
The 31-year-old mother admitted two charges of theft from a shop. One charge was

Parker Knoll

in relation to the nurse outfit from Ann Summers on February 14 and the other for the theft from Peacocks. She also admitted another charge of steal-ing from a shop while she was subject to a conditional discharge, which related to air fresheners stolen from Halfords last Sep-tamber

Mr Ian Henry, defending, told Wolver-hampton Magistrates Court that Smith knew she had been 'foolish' to find herself in trouble after previously receiving a deferred

Mr Henry also passed a letter to the bench which Smith had penned while in custody,

showing her remorse. District Judge Michael Wheeler said he was also aware from previous court cases that Smith, of Ingleby Gardens, Farndale, had battled to be free of drugs.

As he passed her sentence, of a combined

As he passed her sentence, of a combined 14 weeks imprisonment, suspended for 12 months, he said: "I'm aware of your situation. I am fully familiar with what you have battled. I've been doing this job a long time. I don't think your letter is the usual flannel. You wanted to avoid jail. There's your chance." He also ordered she pay £25 compensation to Ann Summers for the theft of the nurse outfit.

Car left on its roof after crash drama

This was the aftermath after a car skidded off the road and smashed through a fence before rolling over a parked car and landing on its roof. The young driver was said to be shaken, but suffered no injuries following the crash in Oldnall Road in Wollescote, Stourbridge last Wednesday at 7.30pm.

It is believed the

Renault Clio had been coming from the Lye direction down the hill into Cradley when the driver went round a parked car and hit a kerb before losing control.



The scene at Oldnall Road. Picture courtesy of reader Ne

The vehicle then smashed through a fence and rolled over on a parked car in another front drive way. The damaged parked car, a Smart vehicle, belonged to Michael Wentworth, aged 58, who said: "It's all been a bit of a shock

Going to the dogs for cause



Beacon fundraiser Karen Cullick with Carrie and Jude Beacon fundraiser Karen Cullick with Carrie and Jude
A GREYHOUND racing night is being held by a Black
Country charity to help support its work and mark its 50th
anniversary celebrations. The Beacon Centre for the Blind
in Sedgley has about 40 tickets left for the event at
Monmore Green in Wolverhampton on September 26.
The charity hopes to raise £1,000 from the event. It is part
of a busy programme of events to mark the charity's
anniversary year. The charity helps people with sight loss to
live more independent lives by offering them the specialist
facilities and support.

live more independent lives by offering them the specialist facilities and support.

Community fundraiser Karen Gullick said: "For the anniversary year we've tried to get some events together which are a bit different from what we usually do. This is the first race night we have done—I'm sure it will be a great evening out for people, while also supporting a local charity. The money raised will go toward the continued work of the charity."

Tickets for the event cost £23. It will begin at 60m.

Tickets for the event cost £23. It will begin at 6pm. Included in the ticket price is event entry and a three-course meal. The centre is also holding a Bavarian evening at its site on September 14. The event will include music and entertainment from the Halesowen-based Bavarian Shuntler.

Renovation work on grounds under way

WORK is under way to enhance the grounds of an 18th century Midland manor house ahead of plans to reopen the parkland as a visitor attraction.

A£1 million restoration project has started at the 350-acre estate surrounding Hagley Hall, near Stourbridge, to clear overgrown land.

clear overgrown land.
Undergrowth and overhanging trees are being cut back to
restore one of the park's original features when it was first
landscaped between 1754 and 1760. This will open out
flowing waterfalls and cascades which are being recreated nark walks for visitors

Maintenance

Maintenance

Lord Cobham, owner of the Hagley estate, wants to reopen the park for the first time in decades to attract 70,000 visitors a year. Revenue from ticket sales would be ploughed back into the maintenance of the Lyttelton family's ancestral home.

The works will last another four to five months. The cash for the scheme is being shared between Lord Cobham and conservation group Natural England as part of a three-year development scheme. This includes building a visitor centre and car park in a bid to reopen the Grade I-listed parkland. "The works are already under way and it is looking great," Lord Cobham said.

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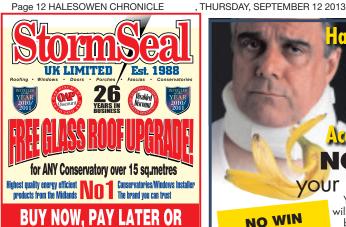
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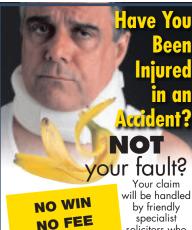
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Guest rooms finished at £40k revamped inn

WORK has been completed on a new £40,000 bed and breakfast at one of the region's most successful breweries.

Bosses at The Windsor Castle Inn in Lye, which is home to Sadler's Ales brewery, have spent two months converting the upstairs accommodation into four guest bedrooms.

guest Deditooms.

It has been prompted by the rising popularity of the site's 'brewery experience days' which give visitors an insight into the brewing process including the chance to sample the

including the chance to some ales.

The move, which has seen the creation of jobs to help run the business, has also been made in response to demand from customers who visit from all over the country and often ask for accommodation.

Redrooms

Bedrooms

Bedrooms

Manager of the Windsor Castle Inn, Emily Sadler, said: "I am really happy with the investment I have made in to the property and having had such positive feedback from our first guests I am looking forward to welcoming many more guests to come.

"We are open all year round and not only take bookings for our own brewery experience guests but anyone travelling to the Stourbridge area.

"We have two twin bedrooms with private bathrooms and two double en suite bedrooms available. Guests can enjoy comfortable rooms and an excellent breakfast in the morning.

"We are also now open for breakfast to the public every Saturday and Sunday morning between 9am and 12 noon." The pub was granted planning



permission for change of use for the premises last year, when councillors said the expansion would also benefit the surrounding area.

The premises of BBC One soap Doctors which will air in November.

For the scenes the name of the premises was changed to Aldbrook Brewing

The award-winning brewery was founded in 1900 by Nathaniel Sadler. founded in 1900 by Nathaniel Sadler.

It supplied its twelve tied public houses, the most famous being the Windsor Castle Inn, Oldbury, the original Brewery tap house.

It ceased production in 1927 but relaunched during the winter of 2004.

Earlier this month, a film crew descended on the pub to capture action

Company.

Company.

Among the actors who visited Windsor Castle were Ian Midlane who plays GP Al Haskey and Owen Brenman who stars as Dr Heston Carter, while Henry Miller and Melanie Gutteridge were playing brother and sister James and Sophie Aldbrook in the popular daytime Aldbrook in the popular daytime



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New year to see start of crematorium

REFURBISHMENT work at a Black Country crematorium will start in the new year after £1.4 million plans were approved.

Rowley Regis Crematorium will have a larger chapel, a remembrance garden, a covered area for flowers and new footpaths. It would also double the number of mountress it can hold in

new tootpaths. It would also double the number of mourners it can hold in the chapel – more than 100.

Previously, some mourners had to stand outside the chapel during serv-ices. Meanwhile, the old toilet block will be converted into a space that could be rented out as a cafe, florist or other business.

other business.

The refurbishment will include new cremator equipment and the improvements – expected to take around six months – will also create an extra 20 car parking spaces.

Designed

Designed
The Powke Lane crematorium will be closed for services for around four weeks while the work is going on, however, cremations will still be carried out. Architects Martin Critchell Associates, who also designed the new crematorium at Sandwell Valley which opened in 2010, have put together the plans.

Sandwell's neighbourhood services boss, Councillor Mahboob Hussain said: "It's good news that work can now start to improve Rowley Regis Crematorium.

"I want to reassure people that the

Crematorium.

"I want to reassure people that the work will be carried out with the utmost care and respect for the crematorium building and the cemetery that surrounds it. We will be talking to mourners and people who visit the cemetery. There will be no disturbance to any graves or interred bance to any graves or interred

Trader airs fears on decision to shut high street's HSBC branch

THE HSBC branch in Blackheath is to close down, prompting fears cus-tomers could struggle to do their banking.

The bank's branch on the high street, will be shutting its doors permanently on November 22, and has started notifying its cus-

The bank has said customer usage at the branch has 'fallen very significantly' recently, meaning it is no longer viable. But one of the town's traders has now raised concerns it could cause problems

has now raised concerns it could cause problems for those living and working there.

Mary Docker, a former councillor and a member of the Blackheath Traders' Association, said: "The association has been banking there for years.

"I think it is going to cause horrendous problems, particularly for people like me as it is really convenient. A lot of businesses bank there, but now the closest branches will be in Halesowen or Cradley Heath."

Locations

Locations

But HSBC has said it is working with customers to 'reorganise their finances', and has said they can still access their accounts at any Post Office or at anyone of the 14 fee-free ATM's in a one-mile radius of their current branch.

Spokesman James Thorpe said: "We need to ensure that our branches are in the right locations for our customers and on occasions this means that we need to close a branch where gustomer footfall.

we need to close a branch where customer footfall has fallen dramatically.

has fallen dramatically.

"Our branch in Blackheath is a case in point. Customer usage of the branch has fallen very significantly. Decisions like this are never easy, but we are working with the small number of customers who use the branch to help them reorganise their finances ahead of the planned closure."

The members of staff who man the branch will be transferred to other HSBC branches in the area.



Front, from left, Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club president Brian Maxfield with Mary Stevens Hospice community fundraiser Vanessa Wale, general manager Piers Guest, and sales manager Kevin Walton. The Mercede dealership in St Johns Road, Stourbridge, is the latest sponsor of the Great Black Country Run

Running total plea for cause

A HOSPICE is appealing for runners to hit the streets of Halesowen in this year's Great Black Country Run. Staff and volunteers at Mary Stevens Hospice are hoping people will register to take part in the September 22 event—with a 5k fun run and a 10k road race available organised by Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club. Rotarians gathered at one of the main sponsors, Mercedes-Benz of Stourbridge, to launch the appeal. The car

or the main sponsors, Mercedes-Benz of Stourbridge, to launch the appeal. The car dealership is offering its support by providing a number of vehicles, including the race pace car.

Rotarian and event director Alan Bowler said: "This year we have decided to open up the charity sponsorship so that individuals and teams of runners will be able to collect sponsorships for their own chosen charities through our Virgin Money Giving link."

The 10k road race will set off at 9am, and the fun run at 11am. Visit www.great blackcountryrun.com



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Fixing of gas mask box led to lifelong roma

WHEN young Joan's gas mask box ter. The pair, both from Stourbridge, string broke while out picking hops in remained in contact and started courtant was contact and started court and to her aid and it was to be St Mary's Church in Oldswinford on the start of a wonderful future to the start of a wonderful future to the start of the start of a wonderful future to the work here.

the start of a wonderful future together.

More than 70 years on from their chance meeting, the Black Country couple celebrated their 60th 'diamond wedding' anniversary at their home in Stourbridge with their daughter, three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Tom Knowles was aged 11 and Joan aged 10 when they met while picking at

aged 10 when they met while picking at the fields in Whitbourne near Worces-

ter. The pair, both from Stourbridge, remained in contact and started courting in their early 20s. They married at St Mary's Church in Oldswinford on August 22 in 1953. They honeymooned to Weston-super-Mare.

Mr Knowles, now 86, who was born in Lye, attended Orchard Lane School before King Edwards VI school in Stourbridge. He worked at Folkes and Campbell Accountants in Stourbridge before serving in the RAF as a radar fitter. He later worked at British Leyland before retiring in 1991.

Mrs Knowles, 85, attended Wollescote School. She left at the age of 14 to

work at a tailoring business in Lye. She said: "Iremember when I first met him now – it was the year before the war and we were out hop picking and the string broke to my gas mask box when he came and fixed it. I looked him in the new cond that war, then?"

when he came and itscut; 1.00seu min in the eyes and that was that."

Mr Knowles said: "We've had a glorious time together. What's kept us together is an understanding of each other and never letting the dark go out on an argument." Thoir daughter. Sharen, Handlow.

Their daughter Sharon Handley, aged 59, of Chawn Hill Close in Stourbridge, said: "I'm so happy for them both.



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Taking a glimpse inside house of fireball horror

AN horrific crime committed out of pure malice - that is how detectives described the horror of a woman being set alight in her Black Country home, as they released pictures of the scene after the attack.

Damion Sheldon was last week sentenced to 19 years for the ter-rifying attack on his ex-partner Louise Pilkington at her own home in Rowley Regis.

He had gone to her house, pouring petrol through the letter box and

setting her alight, turning her into a 'human fireball', while two children were inside.

Ladder

Jilted Sheldon had been out drink-ing to celebrate his birthday before the attack and had consumed almost three litres of cider, vodka and a few pints of lager, before going to the house in Haden Walk and dousing his ex with the fuel.

In the fuel.

In desperation after being set alight Miss Pilkington took off her burning clothes and rolled around her front lawn, with help from a nine-year-old girl who had been in the house before the flames then spread inside.

Three men tried to break in the front door and then use a ladder to get to a 13-month-old child who was inside – and they were soon joined by firefighters who smashed through the back door and rescued the baby.

The baby was revived by firemen

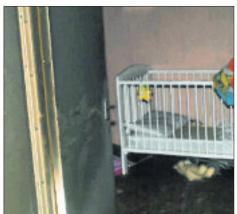


Pure malice - Damion Sheldon

outside. In court, Judge John Warner said it was 'pure chance' the woman and two children did not die in the attack on December 2.

Speaking after the sentence, Det Con Andy Barnsley said: "This was an horrific crime committed out of pure malice at having been jilted by his partner.

partner.
"It is a measure of Sheldon's charac-"It is a measure of Sheldon's charac-ter that he went to set fire to his ex-partner's home in the dead of night and when disturbed by the woman, he doused her in petrol and set fire to her. "But this horror wasn't enough for



A 13-month-old child had to be rescued from the burning house A severely damaged door following the blaze

A 13-month-old child had to be rescued from the burning house A severe Sheldon who then coolly walked into the house and set fire to the house, where a baby was sleeping.

"Like a coward he then ran off in an attempt to evade justice and when captured, tried to deny any knowledge of the offence blaming his actions on alcohol. It is thanks to the woman's quick thinking and the actions of neighbours and the emergency services that this was prevented from becoming a tragedy.

"I am satisfied that the courts realised the sickening nature of Sheldon's crime and have handed

15 to 16 per cent of her body, needing skin grafts and causing scarring on her arms. She told the jury during the trial that the pain was 'like I'd never felt

before'.

Judge Warner said Sheldon had planned to set to fire to the house and told him: "This was not a case of attempted murder which sometimes happens purely spontaneously in the course of an argument when someone picks up a weapon."

He said that it was 'pure chance' the consequences of the attack were not more serious.

Jeans day to focus on Rida's rare

A YOUNGSTER from Dudley with a rare genetic disorder will be helping to raise awareness of her condition for an upcoming fundraiser Jeans for

Genes Day.
Rida Batool,
aged eight, has
the rare genetic
disorder Alström Syndrome, which can affect every organ in the body along



the body along with microcephaly, which causes a small learning difficulties.

As a result Rida has sight problems, hearing impairment and she doesn't speak, instead communicating through sign language on her own body. She is mobile but uses a wheelchair for distance.

tance.

When she was born her mother Iram
Shah knew immediately that she had
some health problems, but she never
imagined her daughter would be diagnosed with a very rare genetic disordor.

nosed with a very rate bearing der.

As a newborn Rida had a very small head, much smaller than average, and she had no soft spot in her skull, just like her elder brother Shamas.

Those were all symptoms of a hered-

like her elder brother Shamas.

These were all symptoms of a hereditary neurological disorder called microcephaly, which literally means 'small head'. Shamas, now 11, was diagnosed at birth and has moderate learning disabilities, and Iram was in no doubt that her daughter also had the same condition.

Now in its 18th year, Jeans for Genes Day is on Friday 20 September and asks for people to wear their jeans to work or school in return for a donation.

For details log onto www.jeansfor

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Penguin in mystery escape bid



Head of birds at Dudley Zoo, Kellie Piper, with escapee penguin Houdini, who was found outside a theatre Bird named Houdini after legend

ZOO staff had a mission to p-p-p-pick up a baby penguin who did a disappearing act. Now this little bird has been chris-tened Houdini – after the world famous great escape artist. The chick somehow managed to get

The chick somehow managed to get The chick somehow managed to get out of Penguin Bay at Dudley Zoologi-cal Gardens – and waddled off to the nearby Go Wild! theatre about 40 yards away. The juvenile Humboldt penguin was spotted by zoo presenter

Langan Turner, who gives talks to visitors in the theatre, as he opened the door at Go Wild! He said: "It was quite a surprise to see the Humboldt there. "We're used to finding peacocks outside the door, but never a penguin. I had to remind him that he would have a long wait for the show to start later that afternoon."

Outte how Houding menaged to get

Quite how Houdini managed to get out of Penguin Bay is a mystery. Penguins cannot fly and zoo keepers have carefully checked the

perimeter of the enclosure and have been unable to find any breaches which the bird could have climbed

which the bird could have climbed through.
Luckily the chick was not too far from its Penguin Bay home and was quickly ushered back to the poolside colony by head of birds Kellie Piper. Kellie said: "We hadn't yet named the chick, so we've now christened him Houdini as we're baffled as to how he got there. We're going to have to keep a close eye on him from now on."

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spark move for barrier

A BARRIER has been installed at a library car park following complaints yobs were parking there late at night and playing loud

Dudley Council took action after residents living near to Gornal Library, in Abbey Road, complained that the noise was causing disruption during the

The barrier will allow the car park to be sealed off at night ensuring no vehicles can park there once the library has closed.

Gornal councillor Stuart Turner said: "There have been instances where around two or three cars have been parked up at the site late at night and playing loud music. "People living nearby

"People living nearby understandably complained about the noise." about the noise

Exhibition of a different glass

A VISITOR attraction in Wordsley is staging a quirky glass exhibition this month.
Recent graduates are showcasing their work at the Red House Glass Cone.
Oh My Glass is curated by glass graduate and manager of Wolverhampton's Shop in the Square project, Charlotte Clark.
The artists are all display-

otte Clark.

The artists are all displaying a piece from their degree alongside a current piece of work.

Councillor Tracy Wood, cabinet member for environ-ment and culture, said: "This exhibition shows the range of beautiful, challenging and sometimes quirky pieces that can be made from pieces that can be made f the same basic material.

The exhibition runs until

A timely visit to town during heritage weekend



THIS weekend some of Stourport's historic venues will be celebrating their history as part of Heritage Open Days Weekend at Stourport.

The event will provide a great opportunity for local people and visitors to find out more about the history of the town and canal basins, the 200 Stourport Yacht Club and the history of some of Stourport's churches. history of some of Stourport's churches. On Saturday there will be a guided walk of

the canal basins, starting from the Windlass Cafe at 2pm, led by Stourport Forward vol-unteer Geoff Shaw.

Also on Saturday from 12 noon to 4pm there will be a rare opportunity to visit Dave Little celebrates the clock's anniversary

Stourport Yacht Club, in Engine Lane, to

learn about Stourport Town Clock, which is owned and maintained by Stourport Town Council and is situated in the club's roof. Councillor. Dave Little will be offering tours of this historic clock to celebrate its 200th anniversary

anniversary.

On both days visitors will be able to explore a Canal and River Trust Heritage working boat where volunteers will be available to talk about what it was like to live and work on such a boat in times past. Some of Stourport's historic churches will also open their doors during theweekend and light refreshments will be available.

St Bartholomew's Church and Church

day from 10am to 4pm and on Sunday from 12 noon to 4 pm.
Visitors will be able to enjoy an art exhibition, jewellery and craft stalls and refreshments will be available in Church House throughout the weekend.
Stourport Methodist Church, off High Street, will welcome visitors to their historic church and the Oasis Coffee Bar will be open from 10 am to 1pm. on Saturday. St. Michael's Church and graveyard, Church Drive will both be open.
Chairman of Stourport Forward, Pauline Annis said "For those of us who live in Wyre Forest it is very easy to forget that Stourport has such a unique and fascinating history."

competing for the job. That number was whittled down to 100 and then I was chosen.

"I am absolutely over the moon. I never expected that this would happen to me. My family are all ecstatic and my nan is already

asking when I can take her on a flight."
Mr Millar, of Gornal, Dudley, will have to take nine exams over the next year in order to obtain his private licence and will be training at the airport up to three days a

week.

Chief pilot Alan Austin said: "This is a very rare opportunity for David and he has got a long 12 months ahead of him with nine

exams in subjects including flight naviga-tion and air law.

"I will be training him over the next year

with his first flight lesson due to start on Saturday, weather permitting. "From what I have seen from him, he is

Academy move for schools is completed

THREE schools serving more than 1,000 pupils have joined together to become a single academy to boost prospects for youngsters moving from primary to secondary education.

Bishop Milner Catholic College, in Burton Road, Dudley, together with St Chad's Catholic Primary, in Catholic Lane, Sedgley, and St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, in Hillcrest Road, Kates Hill, have formed the new institution.

Education secretary Michael Gove gave the goahead for the new academy, which will be known as St John Bosco Catholic Academy, to be formed this month.

All three schools will know.

emy, to be formed this month.

All three schools will keep their own identities, which are associated with historic parishes in the borough and leading Catholic figures. Each will retain their head-teacher, school uniforms and manage their own school budget.

But education chiefs say as an academy they can access extra funding, create a smoother transition between year groups and promote Catholic educational values while remaining inclusive of all denominations.

Aqua fitness

A NEW women-only aqua fitness class starts at Dudley Leisure Centre, for people aged 16 and over from Sep-tember 17.

The 30-minute classes

will run every Tuesday from 9-9.30am. Aqua blast costs £2.20 per session, with a 50 per cent discount for anyone aged 60 or over taking part.

David's lofty ambitions to be a pilot taking off

old David Millar who has been given the opportunity of a lifetime to train as a helicopter pilot.

The teenager, from Gornal, in Dudley, was struggling to find work when he spotted an advert for his dream role on the Government job centre website for a trainee pilot.

He said: "I was searching for a job for about five months and was finding it really tough in the current climate.

"I went to college and studied to become an electrician, but after I finished nobody was recruiting even though I had all the malifesticum. qualifications

qualifications.

"Ever since I was young I have wanted to be a pilot but I didn't think it would be possible because of the costs involved.

"One day I decided to look into it and that was when I came across the advert for a trainee helicopter pilot.

"I decided to apply, not really thinking I would get it, but after undergoing a flight test I was told I had been successful."

Former Ellowes Hall School and Dudley



David Millar, centre, who has been offered his dream job to train as a helicopter pilot

College student Mr Millar was invited to Halfpenny Green Airport at Bobbington, where he was taken on a flight and asked to take over the controls of a helicopter.

After a tough interview, he was given the ood news that he had secured a position

with Senior Helicopters. He will now be paid a salary and have full training carried out by Austin Aviation.

Once he is completely qualified, he will fly business people around the country. He added: "I was up against 600 people all

very dedicated and prepared to listen and once he is fully qualified, the rewards are going to be great.

"I have taken all the exams so I know exactly what he is going to be up against, but I will be helping him every step of the way.

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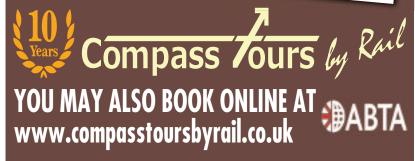
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NEWS

Listed building in £300k revamp



New chapter on menu at premises

A HISTORIC grade II listed building in Dudley which has been restored during a £300,000 project will re-open as a restaurant.

Charlton House, on the corner of New Street and Priory Street, is the latest property to be refurbished by Dudley Council's Townscape Heritage

Initiative (THI). Owner Jagdish Singh is now gearing up to open a new restaurant called Charlton House Bar and Dining this

The restoration project, which started in March 2012, included sub-

by Heather Large

stantial internal and external repairs, elements of architectural reinstatement and internal refurbishment to bring the vacant floor space back into use. The work has been carried out by use. The work has been carried out by Mr Singh with grant assistance through the Dudley THI, supported by funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Dudley Council, English Heritage and the Housing and Communities Agency.

The restaurant, which has created six jobs, will offer a range of British cuisine as well as Indian dishes made with locally sourced produce.

with locally sourced produce.

Mr Singh said: "We are delighted to

be in a position to open the restaurant in this historic building which gives us an excellent foundation for a successful restaurant.

"We are very grateful to the support we have received from Dudley Council, Heritage Lottery Fund and other organisations"

Heritage Lottery Fund and other organisations."
Councillor Judy Foster, cabinet member for regeneration, said: "This building had deteriorated until it was bought by the current owners who have shown great determination to refurbish it for use as a restaurant.
The project follows similar work at Baylies Hall in Tower Street and Elizabeth House and Holloway Chambers in Priory Street.

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days are talk topic

Edwardian Search begins for Citizen of the Year

BLACKHEATH MORNING TWG

THE August 28 meeting was THE August 28 meeting was opened by chairman, Doreen Armstrong, who welcomed members and visitors and speaker for the day, John Billingham.
The monthly reports were given by treasurer Beryl Hartley, outings co-ordinator Brenda Ellesmore and Press officer Iris Harris.

Press officer Iris Harris.
On July 29 a group of members visited the Mill at Alveley to attend the annual Alveley to attend the annual Lunch of West Midlands Federation. This was, as usual, a well organised event and everyone was delighted with the speaker, retired lady toastmaster Marion Canning.

Mr Billingham's subject was The Edwardian Age. As well as his talk, he showed slides, some of which were really old photographs and notices.

notices. He talked a great deal about Queen Victoria's son Prince Edward who on the Queen's death, became King Edward VII. He married Alexandra of Denmark at the age of 18 but had a string of mistresses.

A vote of thanks was given by Beryl Hartley on behalf of

members.
The next meeting will be The next meeting will be on Wednesday September 25 at the Moose Hall, Beeches Road, Blackheath at 10.30am. Ian Bott will give a slide presentation on Midlands' Beauty Spots.

Visitors will be made most

welcome.

Black Country wit from visiting poet

MYTIME OVER 50S

AT the August meeting the club welcomed as its main speaker David Bartley, a well known Black Country poet and raconteur.

Becare Bard Bardey, a went known black Country poet and raconteur.

Born and bred in Tipton, his humour and forthright delivery proved to be a real source of enjoyment and revealed him to be a man of many parts; from councillor to animal keeper, an excellent mind reader, a member of Tipton's Magic Circle, even admitting to a credible belief in aliens and heavenly bodies!

The second speaker was Glen Horton from Age Concern, Birmingham. His talk was constructive and formative and dealt with the new 4G mobile services coming to this area. His comments and advice on how to deal with any problems that might present themselves were helpful and back up provision of information on telephone contacts etc in such circumstances were very reassuring. The next meeting will be on Wednesday September 25 when the speaker will be Michelle McCracker tember 25 when the speaker will be Michelle McCracker

talking about the Air Ambulance service.

My Time Over Fifties meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month in the Amblecote Room at Stourbridge Town Hall at 2pm.

W'TON LIONS CLUB

WOLVERHAMPTON Lions are inviting nominations for the 2013 Citizen of the Year.

The nominated person may have done that little bit extra have done that little bit extra to give help to someone in their daily lives, may have been involved with voluntary work, been a good neighbour, given outstanding service, time and assistance to help their community, has been involved with fundraising, or may have give their free time, help, encouragement and assistance in running a youth or school project. project.

project.
To nominate someone, before October 7, write to: Wolverhampton Lions Club, Citizen of the Year, 275 Warstones Road, Penn, Wolverhampton, WV4 4LA, saying why they should be considered, give a description of the work that they have done and add any letters of support.
Add your own and your nominee's full name, address and contact number.

Tutbury Castle trip planned

THERE was no monthly meeting in August, but members enjoyed a lunch at the Wagon and Horses and a boat trip on the canal from Merry Hill. Thanks to Carole Bowater for organising both these successful events.

A trip to Lichfield and Tutbury Castle has been

WOMBOURNE Έ' **TWG**

arranged for October 3, details available from secre-tary Margaret Whatmore. Treasurer Chris Harper hosted a coffee morning which was very well attended. There were beau-

tiful cakes and a magnificent raffle. Thank you Chris for a very enjoyable morning.

The next meeting will be on September 12 when Mike Wilkes will talk about his Zimbabwe safari at 7.30pm in Wombourne Community Centre.

Visitors and friends are always welcome to join us.

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Art - Water Colour Painting - Intermediate	27/09/13	Fri	1:50pm-4:50pm	£67.50
Jewellery Making (5 weeks)	23/09/13	Mon	7pm-9pm	£25.00
Black Country Crafts	24/09/13	Tue	7pm-9pm	£45.00
Mixed Crafts	23/09/13	Mon	7pm-9pm	£45.00
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French - Intermediate Level	25/09/13	Wed	7pm-9pm	£45.00
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Keyboard for Beginners	23/09/13	Mon	7pm-9pm	£45.00
Photography - Beginners and Improvers	24/09/13	Tue	7pm-9pm	£45.00
Pottery - All Abilities	24/09/13	Tue	7pm-9pm	£45.00
Yoga - All Abilities	23/09/13	Mon	7pm-9pm	£33.75
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NEWS FEATURE

Jersey joy for Chris in season of big change

ON stage in The Jersey Boys, Chris Gardner is the classic all-American pop star.

One of a group of lads who emerge from the wrong side of the tracks to provide the soundtrack

tracks to provide the soundtrack for a generation.

However, off the stage, Chris is very much the boy from the Black Country, As a new addition to the line-up of the lavish West End production about the rise and fall of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, the former Kingswinf-ord schoolboy really is living the dream

ord schoolboy reany ...
But in quieter moments, he reveals he still longs for a pint of Batham's and a packet of pork scratchings.
"I've been in London for a while now, and I really like coming home and having a nice pint with my mates or my dad, I really do miss that," says Chris, who grew up in Wordsley.

Friendly

"I would like to see a delivery

"I would like to see a delivery service, where they bring Batham's down here. The beer in London just isn't the same. The Black Country is such a friendly place. People will stop and talk to you in the street, whereas you don't get that in London.
"Every now and again you will see somebody from the Black Country in London, you can spot them a mile off, and you will get chatting.
"Everybody knows one another in the Black Country, they will say 'I'm from Walsall' or 'I'm from Dudley, I went to Dormston School', and you will be chatting like old friends."
Chris, who who went to Summerhill School in Kingswinford before attending Kidderminster College, joined the cast of Jersey Boys in March, landing the role of guitarist Hank Majewski. As well as playing Hank, he is also the



The West End show The Jersey Boys, tells the story of The Four Seasons



Stage star Chris Gardner

understudy for Edd Post, who plays the role of songwriter Bob Gaudio, the creative force behind some of the best-loved songs of the 1960s and 70s. And he credits Andrew Biggs, his former music teacher at Summerhill,

as being a major influence on him

s, tells the story of The Four Seasons being able to achieve his dream. Jersey Boys, which has won 55 major awards worldwide, including the Olivier Award for Best New Musical, opened on Broadway in 2006.

The West End version followed two years later, and the present run continues at London's Prince Edward Theatre until March next year.

At the age of 30, Chris was born long after the Four Seasons' glory days, but he says the group left a much bigger mark on the world of music than many people give credit for.

mark on the world of music than many people give credit for.

"We're all familiar with Big Girls Don't Cry and Oh What a Night, but what I didn't know until the show was how many of the songs we associate with other artists were originally Four Seasons songs," he says.

"Everyone knows Can't Take My Eyes Off You as an Andy Williams song, but it was actually written by Bob Gaudio for Frankie Valli. Most people know the Bay City Rollers' version of Bye Bye Baby, but that was originally a Four Seasons song."

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Pensioners inspired by people's help in wake of £9k damage at day centre

MEMBERS of a pensioners' day centre targeted twice in a week by thieves and vandals spoke of being 'inspired' by members of the community who have rallied around to offer their support and help it get back on its feet.

Around £9,000 of damage was caused at the Age Concern Day Centre in Hale-

Yobs urinated on food stored for pensioners' meals during one attack, while in the later

raid they managed to force their way on to the

raid they managed to force their way on to the centre's minibus to turn on the radio, which drained the battery and forced it off the road. Many people have offered cash donations and given their time free to make repairs at the centre in Green Lane after hearing about the group's plight. Centre bosses revealed they will be reimbursed by insurers for the cost of some of the damage. But they are seeking around £5,000 in grants from two community forum groups run by ward councillors.

This cash would buy more food for meals

This cash would buy more food for meals and replace some items stolen during the double break in.

They had already submitted a bid to obtain community grants to buy four marquees to allow the centre to hold garden parties. But this scheme has had to be dropped in order to claim the cash needed in the urgent circumstances.

Cent

stances.

Businessman Tony Billingham, who owns three care homes in the Halesowen area, has offered £250 of his own money to the centre.

He has also joined fellow Rotary Club members from Halesowen and Rowley Regis

Locksmith Mike O'Sulevan also offered his services for free to install stronger bolts on doors to keep intruders out. Others, including a local firefighter, have also agreed to spend time redecorating after offices were smashed

Centre director and ward councillor Ken Turner said Age Concern members had been touched by the volume of support. "I'm really chuffed and inspired by the way the community has rallied around us," said Councillor

Changes at top for building firm

construction business Thomas vale has been promoted to become the chairman of the firm.

Tony Hyde, who has been in his current post since 2002, will continue to work with key business clients in the Midlands in the public and switch according to the control of the control of

lands in the public and private sectors.

Thomas Vale is now part of Bouygues UK, which is owned by the French Bouygues Construction Group

Mr Hyde is also Bouygues UK's director for corporate responsibility Mr Hyde will be succeeded as managing the mr Hyde will be succeeded as mr Hyde will b



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ity. Mr Hyde will be succeeded as managing director by Gary Mail who has most recently undertaken the role of construction director.

Shandy put some fizz into romance



Diamond wedding couple Joe and Norah Bagley celebrate their milestone with a message from the Queen

DIAMOND couple Joe and Norah Bagley have toasted 60 years of marriage after their eyes first met across a Black Country pub bar.

Joe plucked up the courage to speak to Norah at the Blue Brick pub, in Brierley Hill, and bought her a shandy to help

Brick pub, in dieney and, win her over.
Six decades later the couple, who now live in Sedgley, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary surrounded by family and fairneds.

surrounded by family and friends.

Both came from big fam-ilies with Norah growing up alongside five brothers and four sisters on the Priory estate in Dudley while Joe lived with four horthers and two sisters in brothers and two sisters in Sedgley. Norah attended the Park Secondary School, in

Noran attended the Park Secondary School, in Dudley, before leaving to work at Cliff Williams' tailors in Birmingham, helping to make men's trousers.

Joe was a Dormston

Joe was a Dormston School pupil until he left to work at Hillman's in Dudley making leather goods. He also served two years national service in the 1st South Staffordshire army regiment in Germany.

They first met in the pub while with their friends and went out for two years before tying the knot.

They got married at St Peter's Church, in Upper Gornal, on a beautiful sunny day on August 8, 1953, before having a honeymoon in Torquay. The



The couple seen on their wedding day back in 1953

couple lived at various homes around Gornal and Sedgley before settling in a bungalow in Arcal Street around 22 years ago. Joe completed 32 years working of Bilston steal.

working at Bilston steel works Stewarts and Lloyds.



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What's On! Halesowen

Chart toppers due at the Civic

LONDON-based chart-toppers Rudimental will play Wolverhampton's Civic Hall early next year.

Civic Hall early next year.
The band's tour has seen
them play Glastonbury, T
in The Park, Global Gathering and Bestival. Their
track Waiting All Night,
sung by Ella Eyre, went
straight to the top of the
UK charts.
The Wolverhampton
show will be on February 25
with tickets at £18.

Tull guitarist to stop off at Robin

stop off at Robin
MARTIN Barre, the former
Jethro Tull guitarist,
whose solo on Aqualung
was voted one of the top 50
solos of all time, is to play at
The Robin 2 in Bilston.
Martin's career with Tull
had many highlights,
including the UK numberone selling album Stand Up
and Crest of a Knave
earning him a Grammy
award in 1988.
Since leaving the band,

award in 1988.
Since leaving the band,
Martin has been working
on his own music and has
just recorded an acoustic
album. He will be at the
Robin 2 on October 10.

Marmalade toast to sounds of 60s

FANS of 60s music can head to Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre for a night of live entertainment later

this year. The show will feature The show will feature music from The Marmalade and Herman's Hermits, taking place on November 10 at 7.30pm. Call the box office on 01902 429212.

Pop icon returns to the 60s in Grand rock 'n' roll musical

the UK's favourite rock 'n' roll musical Dreamboats and Petticoats returns to the venue with a genuine 60s pop icon, Mark Wynter, in a starring role.

Wynter is better known as a West End stage star these days but this jukebox musical will take him back decades to his musical roots. He will be revisiting the magical time in the early 60s when he was hardly ever out of the charts. From August 1960 until the end of 1963, he had nine hit singles and spent an extraordinary 80

charts. From August 1960 until the end of 1963, he had nine hit singles and spent an extraordinary 80 weeks on the chart.

In the middle of pop's greatest decade Mark made his debut in the musical Phil the Fluter at London's Palace Theatre and, in his words, fell in love with performing 'book' musicals.

He never returned to pop music but went on to have success in musicals such as Charlie Girl, Phantom of the Opera, Cats, South Pacific, Barnum, and many more, mixing them with a dramatic career that started when he starred in Barry England's Conduct Unbecoming.

Despite offers, Mark has never joined his fellow hit parade stars on any of the hugely successful 60s revival tours. "My career as an actor just took up too much of my time" he says. "And to be honest, I was never really interested in having 20 minutes in the spotlight on a revival show singing my hits."

Now he gets the best of both worlds thanks to riend and showbiz producer Bill Kenwright, who has asked hime to play the father of a wannabe pop star when Dreamboats and Petticoats is staged at the Grand from Monday to Saturday.

This Saturday and Stunday the Three Phantoms

star when Dreamboats and Petticoats is staged at the Grand from Monday to Saturday. This Saturday and Sunday the Three Phantoms — Matthew Cammelle, Stephen John Davis and Glyn Kerslake — who have all worn the mask, sing West End favourites at the Grand. Contact the box office on: 01902 42 92 12 or see the www.grandtheatre.co.uk website.





Emerald is a vintage pop gem

DUTCH pop star Caro Emerald's jazzy brand of swing pop and vintage glamour is in demand.

The Shocking Miss Emerald, her second studio album, contin-ued the theme set by 2010's hit debut Deleted Scenes From The

debut Deleted Scenes From The Cutting Room Floor. Her retro-pop sound, a fun mix of vintage jazz and pop, is rooted in the past yet modern with its samples, scratching and beats.

Signature

That signature sound has proven to be a winning formula with The Shocking Miss Emerald entering both the UK and Dutch charts at number 1.

Demand was so great for her gig at the Symphony Hall on Monday, September 16, that she's back to follow up that sellout show with a concert at the larger NIA on March 22.



Caro Emerald has a sell-out gig at Birmingham Symphony Hall

REVIEW

People, Birmingham

People, Birmingham Repertory Theatre THE long-awaited homecoming season at Birmingham Repertory Theatre, now incorporated into the new Central Library, started with this surefire hit from the barbed pen of Alan Bennett. People, directed by Nicholas Hyther and brought on tour by the National Theatre, is the playwright's witty polemic against the National Trust and 'heritage industry' with digs at the Church of England for good measure. Sian Phillips, as aristocratic Lady Dorothy Staepoole, and Brigit Forsyth as her companion, were a fine double act, huddled in front of an electric fire as the mansion mouldered around them—a remarkable set of stately decay designed by Bob Crowley. Lady Dorothy's determination to stop the house being handed over to the Trust saw Selina Cadell increasingly exasperated as her tweedy Archdeacon increasingly exasperated as her tweedy Archdeacon sister and led to a film sister and led to a film company arriving to make a pornographic movie at the same time as the Bishop's visit. So the slow first act gave way to a frantic trouser-dropping farce in the second. Michael Thomas gave a standout performance as

Michael Thomas gave a standout performance as the relentlessly optimistic man from the Trust, overjoyed to discover the rancid contents of chamber pots in the billiard room may be the urine of Rudyard Kipling and other Edwardian luminaries. People continues at the Rep until September 21.

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What's On!

Listings supplied by Press Association

SATURDAY'S TV 14.09.13



Joe Calzaghe

Pointless Celebrities

BBC1, 6.20pm This week's edition of the unorthodox quiz is a sporting special as Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman welcome a very impressive line-up into the studio. There's former boxer Joe Calzaghe and 16-times world darts champion Phil Taylor, cnampion Prill Taylor, former England rugby union player Phil Vickery and England cricketer Ravi Bopara, 1966 World Cup legend Geoff Hurst and Paralympic cyclist Sarah Storey, and 2012 Team GB rowers Sophie Hosking and Helen Glover, who should at least have a bit of an advantage when it comes to working together.

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Home Cooking Made Easy, (R) 12.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 12.15 Football Focus. 1.00 Live Athletics. 2.30 Triathlon. 4.30 Final Score. 5.20 That Puppet Game Show. 6.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather

Weather.
Pointless Celebrities. With Joe Calzaghe, Phil Taylor, Sarah Storey and Geoff Hurst.

Hurst. 7. and seofil

1.10 Love My Country. Gabby
Logan hosts the game show,
with guests Laurence
Lleweyn-Bowen, Edith
Bowman, Rebecca
Adlington, Tyger DrewHoney, Dan Walker and Kate
Humble.

Humble.
The National Lottery: Break
the Safe. Nick Knowles
hosts the game show in
which three pairs compete to
play for the money in the
safe. Includes the National
Lottery results. Last in the
series.

orothers who became involved with a drug dealer tests lain and Jeff's ability to get along, while Jamie realises a patient is faking it to gain his mother's attention. 8.50 Casualty. Treating two brothers who became

attention.

9.40 Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow. Sarah Millican performs a headline set at the Sunderland Empire, supported by Simon Evans, Jimeoin and Imran Yusuf. (R)

10.10 BBC News: Weather. 10.30 Match of the Day. Including highlights of Everton v Chelsea; National Lottery Update.

12.00 The Football League Show. 1.15 Weatherview. 1.20 BBC News.

6.00 This is BBC Two. 7.25 Film:
The Three Musketeers. (1935) 9.00
Film: The Westerner. (1940) 10.40
Reel History of Britain. (R) 11.10
The Private Life of Plants, (R) 12.00
The A to Z of TV Cooking.
12.00 The A to Z of TV Cooking.
14.56 Cast Boban Food Made Easy.
(R) 1.15 University Challenge. (R) 1.45 Cast Boban Food Made (R) 4.40 Urban Jungle. (R) 5.10
Floot Itt (R)

(R) 4-40 of state and the first state and the

Count Arthur Strong.
Comedy, starring Steve
Delaney and Rory Kinnear.
(R)

(R)
Thatcher - The Downing
Street Years. The documentary looks at how Margaret
Thatcher stubbornly refused
to stand down as the Conservative Party began to turn
against her leadership. Last
in the series. (R)

in the series. (R)
9.10 Mock the Week. With Hal
Cruttenden, Gary Delaney
and Milles Jupp. (R)
9.40 Ronnie Barker: The Many
Faces Df. A profile of the
ornedy actor and writer,
who found national fame in
The Two Ronnies and

The Two Ronnies and Porridge, With contributions by Ben Eiton, Michael Grade and David Renwick, (R)

10.40 Porridge. The immates face a day of hard labour. (R)

11.10 Film: Starter for 10. (2006)
A student in the 1980s sets out to appear on University Challenge – and woo a fellow contestant in the process. **12.45 Film:** Expired. (2007) **2.25** This Is BBC Two.

Adventures of Badou. 6. 10 Matt Hatter Chronicles. (8) 6. 35 Dino Dan. (R) 6. 30 Dino Dan. (R) 6. 30 Dino Dan. (R) 7. 00 Dino

Weatmer. 5. 49 II / News; Weatmer. 6.00 New You've Been Framed! 6.30 Stepping Out. The five remaining couples take on challenging dance styles including rock "n" roll, street and Broadway as they battle to win a place in the semifinal. Davina McCall hosts. 8.00 The YEART As the closed.

to win a place in the semifinal. Davina McGall hosts.

8.00 The X Factor. As the closedroom auditions continue,
more potential pop stars try
to demonstrate their vocal
talent and earn an invitation
to Wembley Arena. Dermot
O'Leary presents.

9.00 Through the Keyhole. Cilla
Black and Holly Willoughby
join Dave Berry on the panel
as Keith Lemon visits three
mystery homes and
challenges them to guess the
identities of the famous
0.00 TIV News; Weather.
10.15 Film: I Am Legend. (2007)
Sci-fi thriller, starring Will
Smith.
12.05 Jackpor24.7.3.00 The

Smith. 12.05 Jackpot247. 3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 3.45 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** British GT. **7.30** The Grid. **8.00** The Morning Line Hoobs. (R) 7. 00 British GT 7. 30
The Grid 8. 00 The Morning Line.
9.00 The American Football Show.
10.05 Frasier (R) 10.35 Everybody
Loves Raymond. (R) 11.05 The Big
Bang Theory. (R) 11.30 The Big
Bang Theory. (R) 12.30 The Big
Bang Theory. (R) 12.30 The Big
Bang Theory. (R) 12.30 Channel 4
ROBERT CONTROL OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PRO

hop karaoke will impress her guests. (R)

6.45 Channel 4 News.

7.05 Double Your House for Half the Money. Sarah Beeny offers money-saving tips to a couple hoping to extend a run-down semi in Cheshire, and homeowners in Bristoi who want to knock down an wide to have the same to have the same to have the same the same that the same the same that the same that the same that can only be completed by sinking half off it six metres below ground. (R)

9.00 Film: Battle: Los Angeles.

ground. (H)
Film: Battle: Los Angeles.
(2011) Premiere. A platoon
of soldiers is sent into battle
against an alien invasion
force that has landed on
America's west coast. Soi-fi
thriller, with Aaron Eckhart. 9.00

11.15 Film: The X Files. (1998) Sci-fi thriller, starring David Duchovny.

1.30 Film: Potiche. (2010) 3.15 St Elsewhere. (R) 4.05 Hollyoaks. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Power Rangers: Megaforce. 10.30 Stugters. 10.55 Inside Hollywood. 11.05 Celebrity Big Brother: Live Final. Of Milkshammer Live Final. Of Milkshammer Live Grama, starring Peter Falk. 2.55 Film: Police Academy 6: City Under Siege. (1989) Comedy sequel, starring Bubb Smith. 4.35 Film: Maverick. (1994) Comedy Western, starring Mel Gilbson.

starring Mel Gibson.

5.55 S News Weekend.

Australia. Mark Nicholas presents highlights a presents highlights of the fourth and penultimate one-day match of the series at the SWALEC Stadium in Cardiff.

8.00 Live Boxing. Nic Galahad v James Dickens. Mark Cardiff. Almes Dickens. Mark Cardiff. Box Cardiff of the bour for the vacant British Super Bantamweight title at the Magna Centre in Rotherham.

10.00 Film: Unforgiven. (1992)

10.00 Film: Unforgiven. (1992).
Two quantingers help a bounty hunter kill a pair of cowboys who attacked a prostitute. Western, directed by and starring Clini Eastwood. With Gene Hackman and Morgan Freeman. Edited for language.

12.30 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. 4.00 Wildlife SOS. The work of an animal sanctuary. (R. 420 Make It Big. Simon and Jamie Kapen and Jamie Sos Somethies of a main and sanctuary the Racing Cart Big Christoses his lucky mascot. (R. 9.5.00 Angels of Jarm. David loses confidence. (R) 5.10 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.20 Angels of Jarm. David loses starts school. (R) 5.40 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 5.10 Hana's Helpline. (R) 6.50 Hana's H Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

7.00 Doctor Who's Greatest Moments: The Enemies 7.30 Doctor Who 8.15 Robin Hood 9.00 Live at the Apollo 9.30 World's Craziest Fools 10.00 Film: Anuvahood (2011) 11.30 Family

Guy BBC Four

BBC Four 7.00 Mud, Sweat and Tractors: The Story of Agriculture 8.00 10 Things You Didn't Know About Avalanches 9.00 The Young Montalbano 10.50 Imagine: Tom Jones – What Good Am I? 11.55 BBC Four Sessions: Tom Jones

5.05 Film: Babe: Pig in the City (1998) 7.00 Film: Dragonheart (1996) 9.00 The Xtra Factor 10.00 Celebrity Juice 10.45 The X Factor 11.50 The Xtra Factor

2.55 Agatha Christie's Marple 5.00 Inspector Morse 7.00 Foyle's War 9.00 Midsomer Murders 11.00 Wire in the Blood

3.15 British Superbike Championship Highlights 4.15 Film: Dunkirk (1958) 7.00 Cycling: Vuelta a Espana 8.00 Hornblower 10.10 Film: The Green Mile (1999)

E4
3.35 Rules of Engagement 6.00
The Big Bang Theory 7.30
Suburgatory 8.00 Happy Endings
8.30 How I Met Your Mother 9.00
Film: Epic Movie (2007) 10.45
Film: Borat: Cultural Learnings of
America for Make Benefit Glorious
Nation of Kazakhstan (2006)

Film4
3.15 James and the Giant Peach
(1996) 4.50 King Solomon's Mines
(1950) 6.55 Congo (1995) 9.00
Keping Mum (2005) 11.05 The
Naked Gun 2 1/2: The Smell of Fear
(1991)

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 15.09.13

CHOICE



Evan Davis

Dragons' Den BBC2, 8pm For those that can stand the heat from the besuited. power-dressing experts, the rewards can be huge, so let's hope some of the aspiring entrepreneurs in this show have what it takes to impress the usual suspects. They include a Norfolk couple serving up drinks for the investors However, instead of trying to get them drunk, they are hoping to get them interested in their fruity alcohol alternative. Plus two recent graduates bring their range of campus fashions into the den. Evan Davis keeps watch over the

6.00 Breakfast. 7.00 Match of the Day. (R) 8.30 The Andrew Marr Show. 9.30 Live Athletics. 1.25 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.30 Sunday Politics. 2.45 Bardis. 24.41 (R) 3.30 Flog lit (R) 4.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 5.30 Flog lit (R) 4.15 Scape to Taise. 5.35 Britain's Big Wildlife Revise.

BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

Weather.
7.00 Country Te, A visit to the Geather.
7.00 Country Te. A visit to the Geather Steam Fair and a took at efforts to help small animals cross a road in Kent. Plus. Wales' role in help small animals cross a road in Kent. Plus. Wales' role in help small animals cross a road in Kent. Plus. Wales' role in help small kent.
8.00 Antiques Roadshow. The team travels to Fountains Abbey near Ripon in North Yorkshire, where items include pieces once owned by Romile Barker and artefacts relating to the artefacts relating to the Red button viewers can play along by guessing the valuations.
9.00 What Remains. Len

9.00 What Remains. Len what Remains. Left becomes more determined than ever to prove Melissa was murdered – but as secrets are revealed another neighbour is put in danger. David Threlfall stars. Last in

10.00 BBC News; Regional News;

10.25 Match of the Day 2. Southampton v West Ham

11.15 That Puppet Game Show. With Ronan Keating and Tess Daly. (R)

11.55 Film: Heavenly Creatures. (1994) Directed by Peter Jackson and starring Kate Winslet and Melanie

6.00 Film: Stromboli. (1950) 7.45 Around the World in 80 Gardens. (R) 8.45 Gardens: World. (R) 9.15 The Beechgrove Garden, 9.45 Saturday Kitchen Best Blies. 11.15 Saturday Kitchen Best Blies. 11.15 11.45 What to Eat Now. (R) 12.15 Sailing: America's Cup Highlights. 1.00 Live Triathlon. 3.45 EastEnders. (R) 4.45 Athletics. 5.30 Rugby League: Super League Play-Offs.

lolo's Great Welsh Parks.
Iolo Williams heads to
Pembrokeshire. Last in the
series.

Pembrokeshire. Last in the series.

7.00 The Great British Bake Off. Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood test the contestants' skills once more, challenging them to pies, custard tarts and a showstopper made with filo pastry (R).

8.00 Dragons' Den. One final lineup of entrepreneurs face the panel, including a couple hoping to win investment for their fluity beverage idea.

9.00 The Story of the Jews. Simon Schama explores the impact of Jews on European arts and culture in the Enlightenment era, including the illustrious careers of Giacomo Meyerbeer and Felix Mendelssohn.

10.00 IX. With Noel Field in the

Felix Mendelssohn.

10.00 gl XL. With Noel Fielding,
Ross Noble and Colin Lane,
10.45 Film: Moon. (2009) An
astronaut working alone at a
base on the moon discovers
the disturbing truth about
both the operation he is
running and his own nature.
Sci-fi, with Sam Rockwell.

12.15 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R)
1.15 Holby City. (R) 2.15 This Is
BBC Two.

6.00 CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. 6.10 Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan. (R) 7.50 Dino Dan. (R) 7.50 Dino Dan. (R) 7.00 Canimals. (R) 7.10 Canimals. (R) 7.25 Sotory. 15 Canimals. (R) 7.25 Sotory. 15 Canimals. (R) 7.25 Sotory. Royal Royal

6.00 Prince William's Passion:
New Father, New Hope. The
Duke of Cambridge talks
about parenthood and
wildlife conservation.

7.00 Surprise Surprise. New series. The Wanted surprise one of their biggest fans.
8.00 The X Factor. The acts compete for coveted places

compete for coveted places at bot camp.

9.00 Vera. A crime of passion is supported when of passion is supported when of passion is supported when the passion is supported by the passion is

11.45 Premiership Rugby Union. 12.45 The Store. 2.45 British

12.45 The Store. 2.45 British Superbike Championship Highlights. 3.35 Motorsport UK 4.25 ITV Nightscreen. 5.05 The

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Ironman 2013. 6.35 The American Football Show. (R) 7.30 American Football: Hard Knocks. 8.25 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.55 Fassier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.55 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 1.25 The Simpsons. (R) 1.55 The Simpsons. (R) 2.55 Film: Just My Luck. (2006) 4.25 coation. Location. (Location. (R) Location, Location, Location. (R)
5.30 Film: Eragon. (2006) Fantasy
adventure, starring Ed Speleers.
7.30 Channel 4 News.
7.55 The Political Stot. Lynne
Enabyerstona Liberal

8.00 Hitler's Rise: The Colour Films. Conclusion. Germany's political elite allow Hitler's rapid rise to continue following the country's economic crisis of 1929, and he obtains a vote giving him full power.

9.00 Film: Paul. (2011) Premiere. A captive alien escapes from a secret base and seeks the help of two English comic-book geeks in getting to his spaceship. Sci-fi comedy, with Simon Pegg and Nick Frost.

11.05 8 Out of 10 Cats Does 11.05 8 Out of 10 Cats Does
Countdown. Jimmy Carr
hosts the comedy panel
show's version of the words
and numbers quiz, with leam
captains Jon Richardson and
Lee Mack Joined by question
Lee Mack Joined by Question
12.10 Alan Carr. Chatty Man. (R)
1.05 American Football Live. 4.45
Ironman 2013. (R) 5.10 Brief
Encounters of the Sporting Mind:
Golf. (R) 5.15 Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5
6.00 Millishrakel: Peppa Pig. 6.05
Roary the Racing Car. (R) 6.15 Fiff
and the Racing Car. (R) 6.25 Bubble
Gupples. (R) 6.35 The Mr Men
Show. (R) 6.50 Chloe's Closet.
7.00 Millishakel Monkey. (R) 7.05
Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) 7.10
Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 7.25
Noddy in Toyland. (R) 7.40 City of
Friends. (R) 7.50 Bert and Ernie's
Great Advenures. (R) 7.55 Littles
Great Advenures. (R) 7.50 Littles
Friend Corky. (R) 8.25 Angelina
Ballerina. (R) 8.40 Millishakel
Show Songs. (R) 8.45 Rupert Bear.
(R) 9.00 Ben and Holly's Little
Kingdom. (R) 9.15 Toby's
Travelling Circus. (R) 9.25 Roary
the Racing Car. (R) 9.40 July
Samural. (R) 10.30 Slugterra
10.55 Monkey Life. (R) 11.25 The
Hotel Inspector. (R) 12.25 Hustling
America. (R) 1.25 Film: Police
Academy 7: Mission to Moscow.
(1994) 3.05 Film: The Money Pit.
(1986) 4.50 Film: The Money Pit.
(1986) 4.50 Film: The Money Pit.
(1986) 4.50 Film: The Money Starring
Will Smith.
8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 Film: Did You Hear about
the Morgans? (2009)
Premiere. Romantic comedy,
with Hugh Grant and Sarah
Jessica Parker.
11.05 Film: Lethal Weapon.
(1987) Action thriller,

11.05 Film: Lethal Weapon. (1987) Action thriller, starring Mel Gibson and Danny Glover.

Danny Glover.

1.10 SuperCasino. 4.00 Wildlife
SOS. (R) 4.20 Make It Big. (R) 4.50
Roary the Racing Car. (R) 5.00
Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.05 Hana's
Helpline. (R) 5.20 Angels of Jarm.
(R) 5.25 The Funky Valley Show.
(R) 5.40 Roary the Racing Car. (R)
5.50 Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

7.00 Snog, Marry, Avoid? 7.30 Great Movie Mistakes III: Not in 3D 7.35 Shrek: Once Upon a Time 8.35 Film: Shrek (2001) 10.00 Family Guy 10.45 Bad Education 11.15 American Dad!

BBC Four
7.00 Mud, Sweat and Tractors: The
Story of Agriculture 8.00 The
Review Show 9.00 Film: King Kong
(1933) 10.35 Sound of Cinema: The
Music That Made the Movies 11.35
The Joy of Easy Listening

3.10 Film: Johnny English (2003) 5.00 The X Factor 6.00 The Xtra Factor 7.00 Film: Uncle Buck (1989) 9.00 The Xtra Factor 10.00 The Big Reunion: On Tour 11.05 Film: American Pie Presents: The Naked Mile (2006)

4.50 Foyle's War 7.00 Lewis. A student Shakespeare production ends in murder. 9.00 Film: Changeling (2008) 11.50 Wycliffe

ITV4

10. 45 Live British Touring Car Championship. Coverage of the eighth round of the season from Rockingham. 5. 45 BRDC Formula 4 Championship Highlights 6. 45 World of Sport: The Good, the Bad & the Ugly 7.00 Cycling: Yould a Espana 8.00 Premiership Rugby Union 9.00 Cycling: Tour of Britain 10.00 Film: Blade (1998)

E4
3.30 How I Met Your Mother 6.00
The Big Bang Theory 7.25 New Girl
7.55 Film: She's the Man (2006)
10.00 Rude Tube 11.00 The
Inbetweeners 11.35 Don't Trust the
B*** in Apartment 23

2.45 Black Jack (1979) **5.00** Titanic (1997) **9.00** Unstoppable (2010) **10.55** A History of Violence (2005)

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY
Confetti, BBC1, 11.35pm
Three couples compete for the title of Most Original
Wedding of the Year, with a film crew following the
preparations. Theatne-loving Matt and Sam plan a
musical marriage, naturists Michael and Joanna brave
the elements for their all-nude nuptials, while fiercely
competition, beef and leablelle ware u. for a except competitive Josef and Isabelle warm up for a sporty ceremony. Spoof documentary, starring Martin Freeman, Jessica Hynes, Robert Webb, Olivia Colman, Stephen Mangan and Meredith MacNeill. (2006)

The Return, ITV, 11.35pm
A troubled woman finds herself being stalked by an obsessive ex and plagued by terrifying psychic visions of a murder. She becomes convinced she is the killer's next intended victim, so sets out to discover his identity before he can strike again. Thriller, starring Sarah Michelle Gellar, Sam Shepard and Peter O'Brien. (2006)

WEDNESDAY

The History Boys, BBC1, 11.45pm
Eight unruly grammar school boys preparing to take
their Oxbridge entrance exams are exposed to the
contrasting teaching styles of two very different schoolmasters - the intellectually enthusiastic Hector who seeks to instil a love of knowledge for its own sake, and the more cynical new arrival Invin, who intends to equip them with the specific information they need to get ahead. Comedy drama adapted from Alan Bennett's play, with Richard Griffiths, Stephen Campbell Moore and Frances de la Tour. (2006)



THURSDAY Burn After Reading, ITV, 10.35pm

Burn Anter Reading, 111, 10.3spm
CIA analyst Osborne Cox resigns from his job and writes a tell-all book as revenge on his former bosses. However, a computer disk containing the manuscript falls into the hands of two gym employees, who make a disastrous attempt to sell it to the Russians. Coen brothers comedy, starring Brad Pitt, George Clooney, laber Mellizingh Empress Mellizingh Me John Malkovich, Frances McDormand and Tilda

FRIDAY Miami Vice, ITV, 10.35pm

Narcotics detectives Crockett and Tubbs go undercover Narcotics detectives Crockett and Lubbs go undercover and pose as smugglers to infiltrate a powerful drug cartel. However, the operation is threatened when Crockett becomes dangerously involved with the wife of the organisation's ringleader. Michael Mann's crime thriller based on the 1980s TV series, starring Colin Farrell, Jamie Foxx, Gong Li, Naomie Harris and Luis Toser. (2006)

Pick of the Week

The remaining couples make all the right moves

have had its glitzy opening ceremony last weekend, out so what... until that starts at the end of the month, we're glued to this just-as-sparkly effort, Stepping Out.

Stepping Out.

There's something hugely entertaining about famous folk trying to put their best feet forward and learn a new talent (even more so when they spend half their time tripping up).

Impping up).

We might have known that
Denise Welch and her new hubby
Lincoln Townley would be the
couple to provide us with the most
laughs given their ability to simply
giggle at themselves, while Oritse
Williams and girlfriend AJ Azari
manage to make any challenge look
effortless.

Whichever way you look at it, this has been perfect viewing for reality telly fans to bridge the gap until the incoming series of Strictly.

For host Davina McCall, Stepping Out isn't that big a step away from her recent hosting duties on Sky1's Got to Dance, and it's clear to see

she loves her job. She's in her element.

Davina explans: "I love dancing so much. It makes me so happy and I am looking forward to

seeing how the couples cope. I know it sounds cheesy but it will be interesting to share their journey. It sounds mean to say this but I like it when people have a bit of a struggle!

"The British champion the underdog, especially if that person is not in the public eye. They might be with someone who is famous but they won't be used to the limelight and that will be difficult for them."

But asked whether or not she'd trade places with any of the competing stars, it sounds like a resounding no.

"I am definitely not envious of the couples taking part on the show. I know how much work and effort goes into something like this. What professional dancers can learn in an hour would take us normal people weeks to learn to make it look good."

For the lovely Davina, who keeps snatching brilliant gig after brilliant gig, Stepping Out caps off a fantastic year. It's been confirmed that there will be another series of the other ITV favourite, Long Lost Family, but the presenter just feels lucky to be content in both her work and home life.

"I love being able to dip in and look at the sparkles and the shiny floors of Saturday nights and then come home, put my wellies on, do some cooking and then do the school run."

Back to the dancing, and the pressure is on the contestants more than ever this week.

In this third instalment, the five remaining couples tackle dance styles including rock n roll, street and Broadway, before the Front Row give their scores.

But will Mel B, Jason Gardiner and Wayne Sleep be even more tough on them as we race towar that semi-final?

We can only be certain of one thing – by the end of the evening, one couple will have danced their left dance.



Davina McCall hosts Stepping Out, Saturday, ITV, 6.30pm

Best of the Rest

The Fried Chicken Shop

Channel 4, 9pm
When The Fried Chicken Shop: Life in a Day aired earlier this year, many people expected to sit down to a so-so comedy that played out in a similar vain to PhoneShop. However, what they were actually alued to was a one-off rather interesting locumentary about the real-life goings-on of a erm, chicken shop. Cameras have returned to Rooster Spot in Clapham, south London, for a further three-part series delving even deeper into the world of chicken and its servers. In the first episode, the shop plays host to an array of relationships and love stories. Shop workers Imran and Harris discuss their bigger ambitions and the friendship they've formed since moving from

Live UEFA Champions League

ITV, 7.30pm
British involvement in the group stage of the UEFA Champions League gets under way this evening at Old Trafford, where Manchester United welcome Bayer Leverkusen for their Group A opener. Shakhtar Donetsk and Real Sociedad are the othe teams in a difficult group to call, and David Moyes vill be looking to mark his first European match in charge of United with a victory over the Germans, who finished third in the Bundesliga last season, behind Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund. The visitors are managed by former Liverpool defender Sami Hyppia and visit Old Trafford for the irst time since the 2002/03 campaign.

Fabulous Fashionistas

Channel 4, 10pm

They say you should never ask a lady her age – but the six women featured in this documentary couldn't care less. Ask away would happily shout it from the rooftops that between them, they are an average age of 80. That's because in award-winning director Sue Bourne's film, Bridget, Daphne, Jean, Gillian, Sue and Lady Trumpington have something in common; a determination to keep going, to look fabulous and enjoy life. These women are attempting to redefine old age, and they're not going to do it with botox or plastic surgery, as so many women opt to do these days. Yep, we'll definitely have a bit of whatever it is they're having..

WEDNESDAY Father Figure BBC1, 10.35pm

If you could have any celeb as a surrogate dad, who would you choose? Well, after watching this new sitcom, you might find yourself plumping for stand-up comedian Jason Byrne. He stars as Tom Whyte, who looks after his two sons while his wife goes out to work. He's determined to be the best I father he possibly can,

but can he do the responsible, sensible stuff as well as having fun? We're about to find out as Tom invites neighbours Helen and Brendan over for a civilised dinner party, mainly to make up for the injuries he inflicted on them at his last barbecue But while there won't be any open flames at this shindig, there's plenty more things that can go wrona.

THURSDAY The Wonder of Dogs

The Worker of Lag.

BBC2, 8pm

With almost half of British households owning a pet, and the country's canine population at around eight it seems there's plenty of people from all walks of life who enjoy the companionship of 'man best friend'. But how much

do we actually know about dogs? In this new series. Kate Humble and Steve Leonard present an exploration of the animals, and are joined by a team of canine experts to help them in their quest. The first episode focuses on the vastly contrasting anatomy of various species, from their different coats and colours to their hugely variable size It's a dog's life!

Educating Yorkshire Channel 4, 9pm

Teaching's a tough job, but someone's got to do it, and headmaster Jonny Mitchell, is more than happy with the work his staff are doing at Thornhill Academy in Dewsbury. In the third instalment of this heartwarming series, the focus is on two similar boys; one approaching his final year, and the other only just starting out at secondary school. Both are witty and charming, but to their teachers' frustration, don't channel their energies into learning, For Year 10 student Tom, his GCSEs are fast-approaching and his lack of commitment to his education is starting to cause concern. Meanwhile, Year 7 student Robbie-Joe's constant chatter is

FRIDAY

Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Julie Goodyear ITV, 9pm

For more than 25 years, Coronation Street's Bet Lynch was one of the most colourful characters on the cobbles, a big, brassy barmaid with the peroxide perm and a man-eating smile who could turn men to stone with one of those withering glances. However, Julie Goodyear's private life was as colourful as anything Bet got up to. Assorted relationships, engagements and marriages left tabloid editors rubbing their hands with glee. Little wonder Piers Morgan was keen to talk to the woman behind the soap legend to see what makes her tick. Now there's a chance to find out as Julie reflects on her career both on the Street and bevond.

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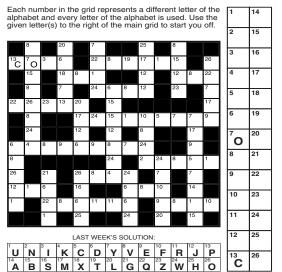


Puzzler

Brain Gym

No.238

Codeword



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

- 3. Dump nitre around in a careless way
- 8. Prize fruit (4) 8. Prize fruit (4)
 9. It's a shame the rubber has difficulty erasing them (4,5)
 10. Animal transport returns with nothing
- returns with nou.... on (6) 11. In which to find men of conviction?
- (5) 14. Man's highest state? (5) 15. Strikes back on
- board, perhaps (4) 16. Picks out and
- marks (5)

 18. Projected amuse-
- ment (4) 20. Captures and shoots (5)
- 21. N. America's big gest meat producer
- (5) 24. Hostilities cut capital (6) 25. Decline to accept
- some advice it's a lot of rubbish! (6,3)
- lot of rubbish! (6,3)
 26. A beastly place to live (4)
 27. This is something between Greece and Turkey (6,3)

- 1. As if tripe could give people an appetite!
- 4. Poor design? (4)
 5. Crest of a partridge has part missing (5)
- 6. Exercises make doctors sick inside
- (6)
 7. They're against motion (4)
 9. They entertain armies (5)
 11. Base-hearted entertainer (5)
 12. Does he give the

- 12. Does he give the view of the wheelwright? (9)
- wright? (9)

 13. Expression of annoyance for what you're doing (9)

 17. Security device that breaks up? (5)

 19. Little time to note what happened
- what happened, perhaps (6) 22. Sea that upset the
- canoe (5) 23. Grant some prec
- 24. Dry plates, perhaps

Quick Clues:

Across

- 8. Call (4)
- 9. Playwright (9) 10. Beginning (6) 11. Guide (5)
- 14. Proportion (5)
- **15.** Daybreak (4) **16.** Bond (5)
- **18.** Inferior (4)
- 20. Haul (5)
- 21. Indigent (5) 24. Negligent (6) 25. Abandonment (9)
- 26. Revolve (4)
- 27. Completely exhausted (9)

- 1. Untainted (9) 2. Copy (9)
- 4. Separate (4)
 5. Send (5)
 6. Detestation (6)
- 7. Flair for detecting (4)
- 9. Evil spirit (5) 11. Three-score (5) 12. Predatory (9)

- 13. Non-stop (9)
- 17. Lustre (5) 19. Alcove (6)
- 22. Put off (5)
- 23. Rip (4)
- 24. Utterly defeat (4)

Sudoku

		6			2	8		
		2	8	7		9		
	4						7	
9			2	8		1		6
5								3
8		1			5			2
	7		1				4	
		3		9	4		1	7
4		9	7			6		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains



LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Buck; 3 Freshman; 8 Vera: 9 Pleasure: 11 Recapitulate; 13 Greens; 14 Grille; 17 Stand-up fight; 20 Outdoors; 21 Scow; 22 Lost time; 23 Blur. Down: 1 Beverage; 2 Coracle; 4 Relate; 5 Small craft; 6 Moult; 7 Need; 10 Opening out; 12 Bestower; 15 Logical; 16 Quorum; 18 Totes; 19 Coil. QUICK - Across: 18 Gam; 3 Cheating; 8 Mess; 9 Partisan; 11 Demonstrates; 13 Assail; 14 Suppo; 17 Entomologis; 20 Elevator; 21 Hali; 22 Disperse; 23 Deny. Down: 1 Remedial; 2 Assumes; 4 Hearty; 5 Attraction; 6 Issue; 7 Guns; 10 Invigorate; 12 Brutally; 15 Private; 16 Porous; 18 Needs; 19 Lend.



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Perfect

On the first floor, you will find a master bedroom with fitted wardrobes and en suite shower room, bedroom two is suitable as a double making it the perfect room for guests or an older

perfect room for guests or an older child.

There is also the main family bathroom on this floor plus bedrooms three and four making the Huntington the ideal family home. The asking price is £225,000.

For more details on the location and possibilities to view, call Charles Derby Estates on 01902 244200.



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REDUCED to £219,950, this distinctive family home in Brick Kiln Lane, Gornal Wood, is for sale with no upward chain.

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Integrated

The house is approached over an asphalt driveway with parking for numerous vehicles past a lawned area to a garage, while on the ground floor is a downstairs WC with wash hand basin and a living room – 14ft by 13ft. 9in – with coal-effect gas fire in marble type surround and hearth. The dining kitchen, 20ft by 11ft 4in, has a range of base and wall units, single drainer stainless steel sink.

single drainer stainless steel sink, roll-edge work surfaces, integrated



This detached - including built-in garage - in Gornal Wood is at £219,950

oven with four ring electric hob and cooker hood, with a dining area with agas fire.

On the first floor are three bedrooms and a shower room with cubicle, WC and pedestal wash hand

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HALESOWEN, Wroxley House£625 po



BIRMINGHAM, City Heights£625 pcr













alace, large fitted kitchen with new oven/hob, patio do ear garden. Upstairs bathroom with shower, gas cent













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UPPER GORNAL, Tudor Vale£475 pcn Situated at the end of the cul-de-sac. This unfurnished en



WORDSLEY, John Street£450 pcr Close to local buses to Kingswinford, Stourbridge and a sho







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Olive Hill Road, Halesowen



£110.000

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Scotts Green Close, Dudley



A well presented three bedroom detached bungalow briefly comprising, lounge, dining room, kitchen and bathroom. Also benefitting from garage.

Paganel Drive, Dudley



Semi detached three bedroom property. Two reception rooms, kitchen/diner, sunroom, downstairs WC, family bathroom and driveway.

Terrace Street, Rowley Regis



Offers Over£180,000

This extended detached house situated in a popular residential area needs to be viewed to fully appreciate the accommodation. Halesowen.

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£95,000

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Motoring

Compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Mazda makes inroads on toughest tests

By Matt Joy

IT'S hard to imagine a more punishing setting for a first drive than eastern Russia, where the surfaces are so badly maintained that a single wheel out of place can mean the end of the

wheel out of place can mean and road.

Yet that is exactly where Mazda let me get my hands on the new Mazda 3 hatchback for the first time, as eight identical cars made their way across the widest country in the world. It's also, inevitably, where one of the cars did put a wheel – or rather two – wrong; wrecking both right-handside rims on a single pothole.

This was a desperately tricky place for Mazda to introduce a car. Even the local drivers along the route were strewn like cannon fodder across the roadsides, tyres flat or wheels bent, all victims of the insanely large potholes and roller coaster-esque, frequently sunken highway.

Curvaceous

Curvaceous

So why did they do it? One reason might be that among the hordes of decades old (in design, at least) Ladas and Cold War-era vans, the curvaceous Mazdas stood out like Miss World contestants in a working farmyard. Their flowing shape, purposeful front end styling and silhouettes reminiscent of the Ferrari FF gave the convoy something that passers-by couldn't help but stare at.

The 3 continues the firm's 'Kodo' design theme, which means 'soul of motion'. The result is stand-out styling, with the exception of the curiously long front overhang (thank pedestrian safety) and the tiny 16in alloys fitted to these



The new Mazda 3 performed well on demanding road surfaces during a test drive in Russia

cars. In truth, the upgraded 18in wheels that are set to be more popular in the UK simply wouldn't have survived the disintegrating Russian roads. A long-looking bonnet and a backwards-slung passenger area give the 3 a distinctly 'shooting brake' style profile, which in turn presents a premium first impression. It's dimmed by those small wheels, though, and it needs the 18s to look right.

Things are still recognisably Japanese on the inside, with a mixture of sensible black plastics, hard-wearing surfaces and logical layouts all designed to satisfy previous Mazda, Toyota and Nissan buyers. But it's definitely a more appealing place to sit for fans of European brands, with a greater emphasis on style.

It's a subtle improvement of shapes and finishes, but it

It's a subtle improvement of shapes and finishes, but it doesn't push too far in any one direction and the net result

is a very likeable interior. Some of the textures should be treated with care though, because their coarse finish naturally rubs skin away and develops (easily cleanable) pale

Passengers are catered for reasonably well, with good legroom available in all seats and a light, airy feel in the front seats. The one criticism is for the heavily shaped rear bodywork, which cuts down on available light in the rear seats and makes it feel a little more cramped back there

seats and makes it feel a little more cramped back there than it really is.

Behind the wheel, drivers are treated to a typically excellent Mazda driving position, partly inherited from the MX-5 sports car. It's easy to drop into the reasonably high seats, where you can then use the large range of adjustment in the seat and steering column to get comfortable and place the



An excellent driving position in the Mazda 3

gear lever perfectly, just under your hand – in this case my right hand, because the eight plucky Mazdas crossing the rough Russian terrain had been built to German specs.

The mid-range 118hbp 2.0-litre petrol engine employs Mazda's amazing SkyActiv technology to record fuel consumption and CO2 emissions scarcely believable for its type, but in this trim there's no getting away from its lack of low-down urge. A 165bhp edition is on the way, but this one is best limited to gentle running about, and is at least very quiet and smooth, with a positive gear change and nicely weighted pedals.

Arguably the most impressive aspect of the car on this first drive was the way it handled the shocking road quality. Mazda will be launching the new 3 properly in Europe only a few weeks after the Frankfurt Motor Show.

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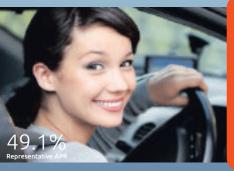


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SPORT

Haseley's fourth is a winner for Hales

Bedworth United 0

Halesowen Town 1
BEN HASELEY'S fourth
goal of the season saw the
Yeltz grab all three points in
a tight contest in North War-

atight contest in North Warwickshire.

The first half saw few
chances, a Josh O'Grady
effort for the home side
easily held by Halesowen
goalkeeper Paul Evans being
their best, with Yeltz debutant Curtis Tilt seeing a
close range header miss.

A formation change for
the visitors in the second
period with Haseley playing
as a lone striker saw them
apply more pressure.

as a lone striker saw them apply more pressure. But both teams toiled once again, with Halesowen forced to look for opportunities on the break.

The winning goal came in the 66th minute when Haseley found space on the left to draw a fine save from the home keeper and the loose ball was picked up by substitute Chris Lait who returned it into the area and this time Haseley made sure.

this time Haseley made sure.

Bedworth tried to get back into it but had to wait until four minutes from time to test substitute keeper Sam

Late-goal blow for home side

Sporting Khalsa 2

Sporting Khalsa 2 Dudley Sports 3 KHALSA started the game the strongest and took the lead on 10 mins through Liam Hughes. Sports then took the game to Khalsa and were unlucky not to draw level when Dan Evans fired over.

Khalsa increased their lead just before half time when Hughes hammered

home.

The second half started with Sports again having all the possession and it was no surprise when they reduced the arrears when Ben Mantom scored.

Khalsa were looking dangerous on the break but Sports were defending well.

With four minutes

With four minutes remaining a long throw was flicked on in the box and sub Dominic Strevens forced the ball home.

ball home.

Not to be satisfied with a point Sports kept up the pressure and in stoppage time Stevens fired home from the edge of the box to complete a fantastic and deserved comeback.

Striker Doyle wants to right the wrongs



Kevin Doyle - positive year

head held high after the summer transfer window failed to deliver

nim a move.

The Ireland international admitted his future was in the air following the club's back-to-back relegations from the Premier League to League One.

But he remained with Kenny Jackett's side and insisted he is now

Jackett's side and insisted he is now focused on putting right the wrongs of the last two years. He said none of the interested clubs ever made him a concrete offer to give him a serious dilemma.

Wolves

"There were bits and pieces and opportunities, but nothing that went anywhere or became a 'what should I do?' situation," he said.

Decisions

"A lot goes through your mind during the summer and I had to make some decisions. It's about sticking around and trying to have a

"If I do leave this club in years to ome I want to do it with my head held high instead of going now when maybe it might be the easier thing to

it could be different.

"If I look back in years to come when my career is over, would I prefer the achievement of sticking at it and trying to help this club get back up the divisions or jumping ship and perhaps ending up in another dogfight?

another dogfight?
"In the long run I am hoping I will get more satisfaction from trying to put right some of the wrongs of the last few years."

Doyle insisted he is happy to still be at Molineux after deadline-day interest from Leicester failed to turn

window. The 29-year-old said: "I've been speaking to the club all the way through.

"We've come from the Premier League to League One in two years and the contracts we signed weren't envisaged to be in this situation.

"For that reason it was an open summer for me and for the club.

"They were very honest with me and said they'd like to keep me, but also had to be mindful of the financial aspect"." cial aspect.

Another defeat in row for Steelmen

Bilston Town 0 Cradley Town 3 BILSTON suffered back-to-

BILSTON suffered back-to-back league defeats, writes Peter Madeley.
After being thumped 4-0 by Dudley Town at The Dell on Wednesday, the Steelmen slumped to another defeat against Cradley Town at Queen Street.
The visitors took the lead after three minutes when ex-Bilston defender Chad McCormack headed home from a corner.

Bitson were guilty of failing to convert chances as the half wore on, with Tom Maydew denied by the Cradley keeper on numerous occasions.

ous occasions.

On 40 minutes Cradley were awarded a penalty after McFarlane was adjudged to have fouled Mills, but Ben Astley flung himself to his right to make a smart save

a smart save.

The Steelmen continued to press forward in the second half but they were caught out from another corner on 75 minutes, Martin Hill heading home to double the visitors' advantage.

tage.
And it was number three in injury time when Chris Bladen broke through to lob the ball over Astley.

Doherty in new deal at Molineux

WOLVES have been given a

WOLVES have been given a boost when Matt Doherty signed a new three-year deal.

The 21-year-old rightback, who was in the final year of his contract, has committed his future to Molineux until at least 2016.

Doherty has been in talks for several weeks with the club.

for several weeks with the club.

Doherty said: "With my future secured, the aim for me is to be the best rightback I can possibly be, and why not try to be the best right-back in the league?

"I'm delighted to have signed the contract. I think it proves just how much I want to be at Wolves and hopefully be part of a successful time here.

"It's important I keep working and don't let my standards drop."

An ever-present this season, Doherty was a bargain £70,000 signing from Bohemians in July 2010

from Bohemians in July 2010.

Yeltz go straight to top with nine-goal display

THIS was Halesowen's first league game of the season and it was important to get off to

a nying start.

Fortunately, the Yeltz crew had read the script and got to a fantastic start with Haley Chatwin scoring within the first minute with a bullet header from a cross supplied by skipper Lyndsey Glover. Chatwin made it two within three minutes as the defence failed to clear the ball, in-form Glover got two goals within five minutes one being a crisp wolley giving the keeper no chance.

Halesowen dowingtatal the lands because the supplied of the control of

Halesowen dominated the first half with the midfield of Sarah Hamill and Tracey Haycock controlling the

game.
Sian Whithall, who came on as substitute, scored with her first touch with a headed flick from a corner off Sophie Richards

Stranded

The goal of the game came just before half time with Chloe Harris' 30-yard drive floating above the stranded keeper into the top corner.

However, the second half was a different story as Wednesbury with nothing to lose came back at the Halesowen team.

Girl of the game Gemma Moss was strong at the back and was giving nothing away, Dominique Mckee, another powerful centre back, was also keeping it a clean sheet as the visitors were looking for the goal to boost their morale.

Halesowen took the pres-ure well then started

run playing it around the lonely keeper.

Sophie Richards made it eight on the hour. From another corner Glover floated the perfect cross and Moss rose like to head home from the cross.

from the cross.

Halesowen were nine nil
up, but Wednesbury, to their
credit, still were looking for
agoal and weren't giving up.
Sabrina Dale cleared the
ball off the line from a rare
shot on goal, but a clearance
from the Halesowen strong
defence hit one of the
Wednesbury players. The
ball happened to fall to a vistiing striker and she coolly
placed it past stand-in
keeper Lauren Gilberto for a
consolation goal.

Halesowen Ladies

consolation goal.

Halesowen Ladies
manager Scott Mckee said: From start to finish we dominated the game

dominated the game.
"The squad played fantastically and were a joy to
watch and deserved the
three points which takes us
to the top of the league
where we intend to stay for
the rest of the season."



Halesowen Ladies' Tracey Haycock heads for goal as her side took Wednesbury to the cleaners with nine goals



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High hopes Doyle wants to right the wrongs Page 39



Ladies' day Women impress to the nines



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Fortunes mixed at Whiley US debut

HALESOWEN'S Jordanne Whiley heads to Hilton Head this week, aiming to add to previous successes at the ITF 2 Series PTR Wheelchair Tennis Champi-onships in South Carolina.

Whiley is fresh from having mixed fortunes on her US Open debut last week in New York.

week in New York.

Whiley was drawn to face
German world No 1 Sabine
Ellerbrock in her opening
women's singles match at
the US Open.

Haaving beaten Ellerbrock in Atlanta in May,
Whiley came back from 5-1
down in the second set in

down in the second set in New York to boost hopes of

New York to boost hopes of another up upset.

However, Ellerbrock eventually held on for a 6-2, 6-4 win to end Whiley's singles campaign at the last Grand Slam of the year.

Grand Slam of the year.
Whiley partnered South
Africa's Kgothatso Montjane in the women's doubles
and the duo threatened to
beat Dutch top seeds Jiske
Grifficen and Aniek van
Koot for the second time in a
week when they met in the
semi-finals, but the London
2012 silver medallists
clinched a 7-6(3). 3-6. 6-1 2012 silver medallists clinched a 7-6(3), 3-6, 6-1

World No.8 Whiley will now be among four Brits on the Tennis Foundation's Wheelchair Tennis Performance Programme contesting the PTR Wheelchair Tennis Championships.

Alicia gets a silver brace

A YOUNG Dudley athlete has returned from The Special Olympics with a brace of medals.

brace of medals.
Alicia Bradshaw, from
Hagley, Stourbridge competed in the games in Bath
which were held over five
days at the end of last month

days at the end of last month.

Bradshaw, aged 18, won an individual silver in the 100m race and a team silver in the 100m race and a team silver in the 100m race and a team silver in the 100m race with the same the anchor leg.

Bradshaw is now second in the country for both disciplines and she is waiting to hear if she will be selected for the World Games, to be held in Los Angeles in 2015. She competed as part of the West Midlands Squad. The team stayed in the student accommodation at Bath University.

Susan Boyle and Colin Salmon, now an Ambassador for Special Olympics, performed the opening cereavy in the Royal Crescent.

Susan Boyle and Colm Salmon, now an Ambassa-dor for Special Olympics, performed the opening cere-mony in the Royal Crescent.

Jackett surprised by the quality of league



Jackett - surprised

KENNY JACKETT says he is surprised at the quality of League One – but declared his team's excellent start has convinced him they can have a memorable season.

Wolves remain second in the table Wolves remain second in the table despite not playing at the weekend as they prepare to return to action with a home double-header against Swindon on Saturday, then Walsall the following Tuesday before the trip to Graham Turner's Shrewsbury a week on Saturday.

Asked if the first five games had gone as well as he hoped, the

Molineux head coach said: "We can't be disappointed with 13 points from 15 so that's very good.

"It gives the players and supporters belief that they can do it and we can have a good season after some disap-pointing ones.

"I think I know the division very well, but to some degree it's surprised Wolves because the people around here haven't been operating at this level as much as I have.

games and the performances, it's apparent things aren't going to be easy for us either.

appareth times active easy for us either.

"The motivation levels of the opposition, the amount of running they're doing late on in games, and the occasion of playing against Wolves are big

sion of playing against Wolves are big things.
"Yes, we should be encouraged by the results and performances and we should also realise we're not going to have everything our own way.
"Things aren't going to be east." Jackett believes many of the

"But also if you're looking at the ames and the performances, it's parent things aren't going to be asy for us either.
"The motivation levels of the oppotition, the amount of running they're oing late on in games, and the occaion of playing against Wolves are big hipses.

someone to take a chance on them," he said.
"At the top end, clubs either look at the lower leagues or look abroad.
"That's the difference, whereas it used to be a case of just looking in the lower leagues and that was it so there was a very steady influx," he added.

A flying start for the firsts

Warwick & Worceste Premier Division 1 The George 241 RABL 127

The George 241
RABL 127
The first team won at home to RABL by 114 shots with 11 winners. A flying start from the first four produced four winners, Paul Greene (21-7), Paddy McGuinness (21-10) and Pete Davenport (21-3).

The middle four continued the good work with Paul Hemming (21-10) Jamie Dunn (21-11) Mare Wilson (21-10) and Shane Day (21-18). The back four completed the impressive win with Phil Clinton (21-3) Alan Belcher (21-10) and Steve Darling (21-6).

South Staffs
Premier Division

South Staffs
Premier Division
Chadsmoor 237
The George 181
The second team lost
away to second-placed
Chadsmoor by 56 shots, but
nicked up five points. The picked up five points. The George battled on in the last

four. Warwick & Worcester

Warwick & Worcester Alliance Division 3 The George 225 Hall Green 185 The third team finished the season as league champi-ons with a 40 shot win at home to Hall Green. Bill Chiswell (21-5), Dave James (21-8) and Dave Hill (21-19).

A night out with TV pundit Taylor

TELEVISION pundit and Former world snooker champion Dennis Taylor is heading to Dudley. Taylor will be is providing

an evening's entertainment on this Friday at Kingswinon this Friday at Kingswin-ford Conservative Club, 24 Oak Street, Kingswinford. Show starts at 7.30pm. Call 01384 287 214.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, September 12, 2013.

FOUR WINS ON TROI **NEW BOY STRIKES**

NEW signing lyseden Christie struck the solitary winning goal to notch Halesowen's fourth successive victory.

The 36-year-old former Kidderminster and Mansfield Town striker met Elliott Turner's 35th minute corner with a bullet header to condemn former league leaders Romulus

their first league defeat.

Halesowen applied the early pressure and Jordan Fincher cleared off the line from Tom Tonks in the second minute of the

match. Ben Haseley continually worked his way into good forward positions but blasted over the bar in the 23rd minute.

Latching

He went even closer after half an hour by latching on to Kristian Green's to Kristian Green's forward pass, only to see his chip over goalkeeper Matthew Coton strike the

post. Haseley worked free yet again in the 35th minute to lob across goal with Christie's low header turned away for the corner that led to the goal from the latter.
The Yeltz continued to

The Yeltz continued to dominate after the interval but a second goal proved difficult to find as Haseley fired another clear chance over the bar after squeez-ing behind the last two defenders in the 58th minute. minute.

The Yeltz

bravely at the feet of Marcus Brown from a short 78th minute back-pass.

A minute later it was Romulus goalkeeper Matthew Coton's turn to save low down at his post from Haseley. Late on, Brown hit just wide on the turn for Romulus but the turn for Romulus, but the visitors were unable to register a real chance on

ister a real chance on target.

Halesowen Town: Sam Pearson; Kristian Green, Aaron Griffiths, Neil MacKenzie, Curtis Tilt, Brendan Kelly (c), Matthew Martin, Tom Tonks (Adam Meacham 72), lyseden Christie (Nigel Penney 77), Ben Haseley, Elliott Turner.

Unused Subs: Chris Lait, Dan Parker, Paul Evans (GK).

Romulus: Matthew Coton: Luke Danville (Lee Smith 46), Nathaniel Caines, Jordan Fincher, Liam Francis (c), Nicolas Hadley, Keen, Daniel U'Callaghan, Marcus Brown, Thomas Turton, Tyron Amory (Darius Darkin 81).

Subs: Luke Unused Chohan. Shearer Lewis Exall

Referee: Chris Husband Attendance: 262.

Blackbird ruffles Lynn's feathers with victory

Dudley Heathens.56
King's Lynn 34
DUDLEY are on the verge of a second successive Knockout Cup Final after demolishing King's Lynn at
Monmore Green.
Heathens will take a 22point lead to the Norfolk
Arena tonight after a dramatic late surge from their
big guns.

matic late surge from their big guns.
They powered to three 5-1s in the final four races to bounce back in style from defeat at Mildenhall on

defeat at Mildenhall on Sunday. Lewis Blackbird notched another sublime paid maximum to lead the side, combining with Paul Starke for magnificent 5-1s in heat 13 and 15 to swing the momentum in favour of his team.

Marvellous

The duo raised the roof with a marvellous last-race effort, Blackbird winning and Starke coming from nowhere to snatch second place on the line from Lewis Kerr.

Kerr.
Blackbird was delighted
by the evening – but insists
the Heathens can't take anything for granted.
He said: "It was a great
night for all of us and a brilliant result.
"I had another good night.

"I had another good night which I was obviously delighted with, and the rest

dengated with, and the rest of the boys backed me up really well.
"We've got a 22-point lead which obviously puts us in the driving seat, but going to their place is still going to be



Heathens hero Lewis Blackbird edges out King's Lynn's Lewis Kerr. Picture John Hipkiss

The top three of black-bird, Starke and skipper position. Solution in the No.2 bird, Starke and skipper position. Youngsters Max Clegg tained their high standards and Nathan Greaves to account for 37 points between them. But they Clegg coming off second-received able support as best in a number of tight Dan Greenwood scored well battles and also suffering a

tough so we will have to be at reserve whilst Gareth controversial on our toes." Isherwood made a good while battling. The top three of Black-contribution in the No.2 Knight in heat

while battling w Knight in heat 14.

Knight in heat 14.

Dudley: Lewis Blackbird
14+1, Paul Starke 12+2,
Ashley Morris 11, Dan
Greenwood 9+1, Gareth
Isherwood 7+1, Max Clegg
2+1, Nathan Greaves 1.

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